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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Spoon in underwear saving British youths from South Asia forced marriage**

As Britain puts airport staff on alert to spot potential victims of forced marriage, one campaigning group says the trick of putting a spoon in their underwear has saved some youngsters from a forced union in their South Asian ancestral homelands. The concealed spoon sets off the metal detector at the airport in Britain and the teenagers can be taken away from their parents to be searched -- a last chance to escape a largely hidden practice wrecking the lives of unknown thousands of British youths.

The British school summer holidays, now well under way, mark a peak in reports of young people -- typically girls aged 15 and 16 -- being taken abroad on "holiday", for a marriage without consent, the government says. The bleep at airport security may be the last chance they get to escape a marriage to someone they have never met in a country they have never seen.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130814/spoon-underwear-saving-british-youths-south-asia-forced-marriage#**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130814/spoon-underwear-saving-british-youths-south-asia-forced-marriage)

**DR Congo/Uganda**

**Uganda says DRC refugees must move to designated camp**

Uganda's state minister for relief, disaster preparedness and refugees has told IRIN that tens of thousands of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the western district of Bundibugyo must relocate to a refugee camp designated for them 245km away in Hoima District. Most of the refugees are refusing to move, despite facing serious safety and hygiene issues at an overcrowded transit site near the border; they want to stay put to better monitor and asses the unrest in their home areas. The mainly refugee subsistence farmers hope the low-level fighting and instability that forced them out of the Kamango area in the northernmost part of North Kivu Province, will soon stop, allowing them to return to their farms.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98568#**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98568)

CEE/CIS

**Kazakhstan**

**Kazakhstan jails Muslim radicals for anti-government plot**

Kazakhstan jailed six men on Wednesday for conspiring to assassinate government officials, the Supreme Court said, indicating a possible rise of Islamist violence in the oil-rich country. Kazakhstan, a mainly Muslim nation the size of Western Europe but with a population of just 17 million, had until recently seemed less prone to the religious violence more common in some of the poorer post-Soviet Central Asian states. The court said the men were part of a "terrorist group" which planned to kill senior officials at the opening of a new opera and ballet theatre in the capital Astana.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/uk-kazakhstan-militants-idUKBRE97D0PR20130814#**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/uk-kazakhstan-militants-idUKBRE97D0PR20130814)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Opposition protests poll results**

Cambodia's main opposition party filed formal complaints Wednesday over the results of last month's general election, challenging the victory of the ruling Cambodian People's Party and alleging widespread irregularities. The complaints should delay ratification of the results by the National Election Committee until sometime before 8 September. A delay could help avoid a confrontation that could lead to violence. The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party has threatened a massive street demonstration unless an independent body investigates the alleged irregularities. The government of PM Hun Sen, who has led the country with an iron hand for 28 years, has deployed troops and armored vehicles in the capital in case there is disorder. The government and the opposition have both said they will hold the other responsible if any violence breaks out.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-opposition-protests-poll-results-19957125#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-opposition-protests-poll-results-19957125)

**China**

**Typhoon leaves 1 dead, 5 missing in southern China**

A typhoon left one person dead and five others missing as it churned through southern China before weakening into a tropical storm on Thursday, authorities said. After shutting down business in the financial center of Hong Kong and sinking a cargo ship, Typhoon Utor brought high winds and torrential rain to Guangdong province after making landfall Wednesday afternoon. These triggered flooding and mountain torrents that led to the casualties, the provincial government said Thursday.

The typhoon had forced the closure of schools, offices, shopping centers and construction sites in cities along its path northwest across Guangdong. Only minor damage was reported, a result, state media said, of strict adherence to orders to confine tens of thousands of fishing boats to port and evacuate vulnerable people to shelters. Thousands of travelers were stranded by the suspension of flights and ferry services.

**AP -** [**http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Typhoon-leaves-1-dead-5-missing-in-southern-China-4734035.php**](http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Typhoon-leaves-1-dead-5-missing-in-southern-China-4734035.php)

**Uighur leader condemns death sentences**

An exiled leader of China's Uighur ethnic minority has condemned the death sentences passed on two people over what authorities called a terrorist attack in the restive western region of Xinjiang. The pair was sentenced to death and three other people condemned to prison terms ranging from nine years to life on Monday by a court in Xinjiang, home to around 10 million of the mostly-Muslim minority, official media reported. Rebiya Kadeer, leader of the World Uyghur Congress, an exile group which has been condemned by Beijing, called the sentences "politically motivated" in a statement sent to AFP late Wednesday. The sentences "serve merely as a stark reminder from the Chinese authorities that Uighurs are not equal before the law, nor can they expect any time soon full enjoyment of their rights", she said.

**RFA/ AFP -** [**http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/death-08142013161339.html#**](http://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/death-08142013161339.html)

**Philippines**

**Philippine hunger incidence rises in June: survey**

Philippine hunger incidence rose in the second quarter with a recent survey by the Social Weather Station (SWS) showing more Filipinos claming their family went hungry. A June 28 to 30 SWS survey showed that more people or 22.7 percent claimed that their family went hungry in the last three months, compared to the 19.2 percent that said that they experienced hunger in March. The survey, which covered 1,200 respondents nationwide, also showed that it is the second highest level of hunger rate since President Benigno Aquino III assumed the presidency in 2010. The first one was recorded in March 2012 with 23.8 percent. About 33.4 percent of those who claimed to be poor said their family experienced hunger in the last three months (25.4 percent moderate hunger, 8 percent severe hunger).

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c\_132633832.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c_132633832.htm)

ESAR

**Madagascar**

**Eating locusts no substitute for lost rice harvests**

Madagascar locust swarms are devastating rice fields and leading to hunger in some areas but locals are trying to make the best out of a bad situation, catching as many of the insects as they can to supplement their meager diet. There are reports of people catching locusts using mosquito nets, while in the Sakaraha area of the central Atsimo-Andrefana Region children are venturing into the swarms, grabbing the insects with their hands and drowning them in buckets of water. The insects are then dried in the sun and either roasted on sticks or fried. According to villagers who have eaten them, the insects tasted salty. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) said locusts were a rich protein source and presented no health risks, as long as they had not been treated with pesticides.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98567#**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98567)

**Namibia**

**One in three at risk of malnutrition - UNICEF mention**

One in three people in Namibia is at risk of malnutrition, the UN has warned, as the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa endures its worst drought for a generation. The government declared a state of emergency after the failure of crops in May and pledged $20m (£13m) of relief for the worst-hit households. The Kunene region in the north has had no rain for two years, and families have been forced to sell livestock and migrate to cities in search of work. After a summer lacking rains and a typically dry southern hemisphere winter, UNICEF, the UN's children agency, has appealed for millions more to tackle the situation. "An estimated 778,000 Namibians, a third of the population, are either severely or moderately food insecure," said UNICEF, noting that this includes 109,000 under-fives.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/aug/14/namibia-drought-malnutrition-state-emergency#**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/aug/14/namibia-drought-malnutrition-state-emergency)

**South Sudan**

**Kiir accepts MPs' decision rejecting new justice minister**

South Sudan president, Salva Kiir has willingly accepted the decision by majority of the country’s lawmakers to oppose his choice of Telar Ring Deng’s as the next justice minister. Kiir’s made the remarks on Wednesday, a day after 150 MPs secretly voted against Telar during a close-door session held in the national assembly. The speaker of the assembly James Wani Igga reportedly briefed the head of state on the outcome of the vote, in which 97 lawmakers voted in favour of the new justice minister-designate, while 11 abstained. The vote brought to an end weeks of controversy and speculation surrounding Telar’s bid to hold what is regarded as one of the country’s key ministries.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47651#**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47651)

**Zimbabwe**

**Opposition leader demands vote tallies**

Attorneys for Zimbabwe's opposition leader say they have filed a court suit to try to compel the state election commission to release full details of the disputed July 31 election. Outgoing Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is contesting the poll results and demanded the commission be ordered to provide verified votes in each district and copies of voters' lists used at all 9,000 polling stations, attorney Lewis Uriri said Thursday. He said Judge Chinembiri Bhunu heard submissions late Wednesday but made no immediate ruling. Tsvangirai alleges massive vote rigging giving longtime President Robert Mugabe a commanding election victory.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/zimbabwes-opposition-leader-demands-vote-tallies-19966063**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/zimbabwes-opposition-leader-demands-vote-tallies-19966063)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Hezbollah leader says his group behind the bombing that targeted Israeli troops in Lebanon**

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah says members of his party were behind last week's bombing that wounded four Israeli soldiers. Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said Wednesday that two bombs were detonated by remote control inside Lebanon. Last Wednesday, the Lebanese army said a group of Israeli soldiers crossed the border into Lebanon and were wounded in an explosion. The army said the force was 400 meters (yards) inside Lebanon. Israel appeared to dispute where the bombing happened, saying the soldiers were wounded while carrying out routine activities along the border with Lebanon.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/14/hezbollah-leader-says-his-group-behind-bombing-that-targeted-israeli-troops-in/#**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/14/hezbollah-leader-says-his-group-behind-bombing-that-targeted-israeli-troops-in/)

**Talks resume as Israel frees Palestinians, pursues settlements**

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reconvened US-brokered peace talks in Jerusalem on Wednesday amid little fanfare and low expectations, dogged by plans for more Jewish settler homes on occupied land. The resumption of negotiations, after a first round in Washington last month that ended a three-year stand-off over Jewish settlement building, followed Palestinian celebrations overnight as Israel released 26 of their jailed brethren. Optimism was in short supply before the two sides' first official meeting in Jerusalem, a holy city at the heart of their conflict, in nearly five years, with the session expected to focus on setting an agenda for the talks.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/us-palestinians-israel-prisoners-idUSBRE97C0Z620130814#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/us-palestinians-israel-prisoners-idUSBRE97C0Z620130814)

**Egypt**

**Islamists call new march despite bloody crackdown resulting in at least 500 people killed**

Islamists vowed to rally Thursday in support of deposed president Mohamed Morsi despite a violent crackdown that sparked Egypt's worst day of violence for decades, with over 500 people killed. As the death toll from the carnage soared, condemnation of Wednesday's crackdown on two Muslim Brotherhood protest camps in Cairo poured in, with Britain, France and Germany summoning the country's ambassadors to express concern. The Brotherhood, the Islamist movement from which Morsi hails, said a march was planned from the Al-Iman mosque in the capital "to protest the death of their relatives".

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130815/egypt-islamists-call-new-march-despite-bloody-crackdown**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130815/egypt-islamists-call-new-march-despite-bloody-crackdown)

**Egypt closes Gaza border after clashes in Sinai**

An Egyptian official says the country's border crossing with Gaza Strip in northern Sinai has been closed indefinitely, citing security concerns. The decision comes hours after suspected Islamic militants attacked four sites in northern Sinai, targeting two military checkpoints, a police station and el-Arish airport, where military aircraft are stationed. The military and security forces responded to the attacks. One soldier was killed and three were wounded.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-closes-gaza-border-clashes-sinai-091600523.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-closes-gaza-border-clashes-sinai-091600523.html)

**3 journalists killed in turmoil**

Three journalists, including a cameraman for British broadcaster Sky News and a Dubai-based newspaper reporter, were killed and several were injured in the violence that erupted in Egypt on Wednesday. Media watchdogs urged Egypt to investigate all attacks on journalists and to hold those responsible to account, condemning the casualties that occurred after riot police backed by armored vehicles, bulldozers and helicopters swept away two encampments of supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sky-news-cameraman-shot-dead-egypt-19956785#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sky-news-cameraman-shot-dead-egypt-19956785)

**ElBaradei quits government, other liberals stay**

Egypt's interim vice president, Mohamed ElBaradei, resigned on Wednesday after the security forces used force to crush protest camps of supporters of the deposed Islamist President Mohamed Mursi, but fellow liberals did not follow suit. In a resignation letter to Interim President Adly Mansour, the former UN nuclear agency chief said: "The beneficiaries of what happened today are those who call for violence, terrorism and the most extreme groups.” As you know, I saw that there were peaceful ways to end this clash in society, there were proposed and acceptable solutions for beginnings that would take us to national consensus," he wrote.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/ElBaradei\_quits\_Egypt\_government,\_other\_liberals\_stay.html?cid=36674304#**](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/ElBaradei_quits_Egypt_government,_other_liberals_stay.html?cid=36674304)

**Iraq**

**Car bombs kill 31 in Iraqi capital: Officials**

A wave of car bombs in the Iraqi capital on Thursday killed 31 people and wounded dozens, the latest attacks in a months-long surge in violence. In the deadliest of the blasts across Baghdad, police said one bomb struck near a bus station in the northern Shiite neighborhood of Khazimiyah, killing eight people and wounding 18 there. Another car bomb exploded near a gathering of daily laborers in the Allawi area near the fortified Green Zone where government offices are located, killing five people and wounding 13. In eastern Baghdad, seven people were killed and 15 others were wounded when a car bomb went off near a traffic police office in Baladiyat neighborhood. Also, a car bomb hit a row of shops in the Bab al-Muadham area, killing 4 people and wounding 12. In western Baghdad, a sticky bomb attached to a cart selling gas cylinders, killed three people and wounded 8 others. A car bomb hit near car repairing shops in the city's northeastern suburb of Husseiniyah, killing four people and wounding 15, police said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/us-iraq-violence-bombing-idUSBRE97D16B20130814#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/us-iraq-violence-bombing-idUSBRE97D16B20130814)

**Sudan**

**Khartoum's roadside refugees call for help after floods**

It looks as if an earthquake, not a flood, hit the Khartoum district of Sharq ElNeel. Two weeks after the worst flooding in years hit Sudan's capital region, killing about 30 and affecting more than 84,000, ankle-deep muddy water still covers this district east of the Blue Nile river. Sharq ElNeel is one of the worst-hit areas. The displaced said the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and other non-governmental groups have given them plastic sheeting and deliver some food each day. But with fears of more rain, the roadside refugees say they have not yet received enough help to deal with the losses they have already suffered.

**AFP -** [**http://reporters365.com/around-the-world/khartoums-roadside-refugees-call-for-help-after-floods-scene/#**](http://reporters365.com/around-the-world/khartoums-roadside-refugees-call-for-help-after-floods-scene/)

**Syria**

**Syria activists say al-Qaida executed 2 Shiite men**

Syrian activists say al-Qaida militants in northern Syria have executed two young Shiite men. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the men were shot dead and came from the besieged Shiite-majority towns of Nubul and Zahra in Aleppo province. An amateur video posted online showed two blindfolded men sitting in front of a masked gunman before they were shot. The videos appeared genuine and corresponded to other AP reporting on the events depicted.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-activists-al-qaida-executed-shiite-men-19966082**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-activists-al-qaida-executed-shiite-men-19966082)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Flood kills 9 Afghans, wounds 12**

Nine people were killed and a dozen others sustained injuries as heavy rains and flood hit parts of Afghanistan's Wardak province, 35 km west of Kabul on Tuesday and Wednesday, spokesman for provincial government Ataullah Khogyani said Thursday. "Nine people have been confirmed dead and 12 others injured due to heavy rains and floods that washed away several houses in Jaghatu, Chak, Nurkh and Sayed Abad districts on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning," Khogyani told Xinhua. He added that efforts are underway to assist the affected people in the flood-hit areas. Some 100 people have lost their lives in the rains and flooding in parts of Afghanistan over the past couple of weeks.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c\_132633454.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c_132633454.htm)

**Afghan officials say female MP kidnapped**

Officials in Afghanistan's eastern Ghazni province say a female member of parliament has been kidnapped by the Taliban and is being held in exchange for four insurgents held by the government. Amanullah Kamrani and Hamida Gulistani, both members of the Ghazni provincial council, confirmed Thursday that Fariba Ahmadi Kakar was kidnapped last weekend while driving from Kabul to the southern province of Kandahar. The government has refused to comment on the kidnapping or even confirm it has happened.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-officials-female-mp-kidnapped-19966079**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-officials-female-mp-kidnapped-19966079)

**India**

**10 killed in heavy rains in Indian-controlled Kashmir**

At least 10 people were killed due to incessant rains and flash floods in Indian-controlled Kashmir, India's official broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) said Thursday. "While six persons were buried alive in a house-collapse, four others including a newly wedded couple were washed away in swollen nallahs (brooks) in Mahore and Gool of Reasi and Ramban districts in Jammu division," AIR said. Incessant rains have been going on in the region since Tuesday and have increased the water level of rivers and streams, besides triggering flash floods. The increased water level has inundated several places besides damaging houses and crops.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c\_132633363.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c_132633363.htm)

**1 injured as serial grenade blasts rock northeastern India**

Serial blasts rocked the northeastern Indian state of Assam on the Independence Day Thursday, injuring at least one person, a senior police official said. "Militants hurled two grenades in the state's Kokrajhar district in which one person sustained injuries. Locals nabbed two motorcycle-borne militants who threw the grenades and handed them over to the police. The militants did another grenade blast in the neighboring Chirand district. However, no one has been hurt in this blast," the official said on condition of anonymity. Preliminary probe has indicated that one of the six militant outfits in the state was behind the three blasts, he added.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c\_132633826.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/15/c_132633826.htm)

**Pakistan**

**93 killed as torrential rains hit country**

At least 93 people were killed and 94 others injured in rain-triggered accidents in Pakistan over the last two weeks, official statistics said Wednesday. According to data compiled by the country's National Disaster Management Authority, the current monsoon rains affected 84,272 people, destroyed 2,309 houses and affected over 58 hectares of standing crops. The southern province of Sindh was the worst hit area where 22 people were killed and 10 others injured in various rain-related accidents. The rain-triggered flash floods affected 15 villages in the upper part of the provinces and swept away 193 houses. Rain water entered houses in low-lying areas of the province and disrupted railway, road and air traffic. The state of emergency was declared in the rain-hit areas of the province and an emergency cell was formed to carry out rescue and relief operations for bringing the situation under control.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/14/c\_125172583.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/14/c_125172583.htm)

**Sri Lanka**

**Government launches new probe into thousands missing in war**

Sri Lanka's president Wednesday ordered a new investigation into the disappearance of thousands of people in the island's northeast during an ethnic war which ended four years ago. The announcement comes just days before UN human rights chief Navi Pillay is due to visit, amid international criticism of Colombo's human rights record during the war against Tamil separatists. President Mahinda Rajapakse appointed a retired judge to head a three-member panel to investigate "cases of persons from the northern and eastern provinces who went missing during the war", a statement from his office said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/14/sri-lanka-launches-new-probe-into-thousands-missing-in-war/#**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/14/sri-lanka-launches-new-probe-into-thousands-missing-in-war/)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Clashes in Rio slum over death of youth**

Police officers investigating the death of a teenager clashed with residents of a Rio de Janeiro slum, police said Wednesday amid a series of protests on issues ranging from alleged police brutality to low wages. Rio police said in a statement that three buses were torched and a police car damaged in Tuesday's clash in the sprawling Penha slum. Police were called in to investigate the death of a 17-year-old boy, whose body was found in the neighborhood. "As the military police approached, a group of locals began a violent protest," the statement said. The teen, whose name was not released, went missing Monday. His body showed no bullet wounds, and the cause of death was not immediately clear, police said. But news reports suggested the protesters suspected the youth died in a confrontation with police.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/brazil-clashes-mar-protest-rio-governor-19950413#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/brazil-clashes-mar-protest-rio-governor-19950413)

**Colombia**

**Amid the violence, an indigenous people struggle for their identity**

The Awa are an indigenous people who straddle the Ecuador-Colombia border but do not feel part of the modern societies on either side. That has not saved them suffering the consequences of the armed conflict that has battered Colombia for years. Expecting more difficulties for the Awa ahead, a UNHCR team walked for five hours from the nearest road to reach an Awa community centre to discuss how to help them prepare for a new influx of displaced members of their traditional society arriving from Colombia. Their history is one of displacement – and resilience as they maintain their own identity. For the more than 4,000 Awa in Ecuador and some 40,000 in Colombia the border is non-existent. The ´Grand Awa Family´ is considered one territory, irrespective of internationally recognized borders. Unfortunately for the Awa people they live in one of the areas most affected by conflict.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/520b85db9.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/520b85db9.html)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Cameroon takes control in disputed Bakassi**

Cameroon took full sovereignty over the disputed territory of Bakassi on Wednesday, state radio reported, five years after an agreement with Nigeria signalling the end of a bloody conflict over the land. "The transitional period in the Cameroonian peninsula of Bakassi has come to an end," said an announcement on the radio. Nigeria formally ceded Bakassi to Cameroon on 14 August 2008, halting 15 years of border conflict. A UN-backed period of transition agreed by the two countries followed to allow Cameroon to develop an administrative presence in the area. Nigeria's Deputy FM Nurudeen Mohammed told AFP the government had taken note of the landmark date.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130814/cameroon-takes-control-disputed-bakassi#**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130814/cameroon-takes-control-disputed-bakassi)

**Cape Verde**

**Southern Cape Verde Islands under storm warning**

A tropical depression has formed over the far-east Atlantic Ocean, and forecasters have issued a tropical storm warning for the southern Cape Verde Islands. The National Hurricane Center said early Thursday that the unnamed storm is located 55 miles (88 kilometers) southeast of Fogo in the Cape Verde Islands. It had top winds of 35 mph (56 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 14 mph (22 kph). The government of the Cape Verde Islands has issued a tropical storm warning for the southern Cape Verde Islands of Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/weather/2013/08/14/southern-cape-verde-islands-under-storm-warning/bdfXrBDB0g9AEF7h5icvUM/story.html#**](http://www.boston.com/news/weather/2013/08/14/southern-cape-verde-islands-under-storm-warning/bdfXrBDB0g9AEF7h5icvUM/story.html)

**CAR**

**CAR could be failed state: UN**

The UN humanitarian chief warned Wednesday that the CAR could become a failed state if swift action is not taken to restore security and end the suffering of millions in the chaotic aftermath of a rebel victory. Valerie Amos told the UNSC that failure to act now could also see the crisis spread beyond the country's borders "and throughout a region already facing enormous challenges." "Over the past months," Amos said, "the humanitarian situation has deteriorated dramatically and has shifted from being a long-term crisis of poverty and chronic vulnerability to a complex emergency characterized by violence, acute needs and grave protection issues." The UNSC later released a statement expressing concern about the total breakdown of law and order and widespread human rights violations "notably by Seleka elements." The council also warned the crisis poses a "serious threat" to the stability of the rest of the region. The new UN envoy to CAR, retired Lt. Gen. Babacar Gaye, said that with no proper chain of command, "the country runs the risk of descending into anarchy and chaos.

**AP -** [**http://www.wwlp.com/dpp/news/international/UN-Central-African-Republic-could-be-failed-state\_90100378#**](http://www.wwlp.com/dpp/news/international/UN-Central-African-Republic-could-be-failed-state_90100378)

**Mali**

**Mali's coup-leading army captain promoted to general**

Mali's outgoing government has promoted to the rank of general an army captain who led a coup last year that plunged the West African nation into crisis and allowed al Qaeda-linked fighters to seize the desert north. Diplomats in Bamako said the surprise move by the government of interim President Dioncounda Traore was meant to push Captain Amadou Aya Sanogo towards retirement to allow president-elect Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to start with a clean slate. The decision, which was criticized by rights groups, comes just days after Mali held the election to draw a line under more than a year of political turmoil and war.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/us-mali-coup-promotion-idUSBRE97D14L20130814#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/14/us-mali-coup-promotion-idUSBRE97D14L20130814)

**Keita wins Mali presidency with 77.61 percent of vote – minister**

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita won Mali's presidential election runoff with 77.61 percent of the vote, the government said on Thursday, handing him a strong mandate for sweeping reforms in the war-torn West African state. Sunday's vote marked a transition back to democratic rule after a March 2012 military coup plunged the West African nation into turmoil, allowing Islamist insurgents to seize Mali's desert north. A French-led military intervention in January liberated the region.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130815104842-r8j65**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130815104842-r8j65)

**Nigeria**

**Nigerian militant Boko Haram no. 2 commander killed, army says**

Nigeria’s Defense Ministry said it killed the second in command of the Islamist Boko Haram group, two days after the group’s leader vowed more attacks. Momodu Bama was killed in clashes with security forces, Defense Ministry spokesman Chris Olukolade said today in an e-mailed statement. Bama’s father and 17 other militants were also killed in the clashes, according to the statement. Bama’s death “has been confirmed by other arrested terrorists,” Olukolade said. He had a 25 million naira ($155,000) bounty on his head, according to the statement.

**Bloomberg -** [**http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-14/nigerian-militant-boko-haram-no-2-commander-killed-army-says.html#**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-14/nigerian-militant-boko-haram-no-2-commander-killed-army-says.html)

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