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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Putin has ‘weeks’ to change Ukraine course: US**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has two to four weeks to change tack in Ukraine or face more sanctions, US President Barack Obama said, amid a whirlwind of European diplomacy aimed at defusing the region’s worst crisis since the Cold War. A partial pull-back of Russian troops from Ukraine’s border and the fact that Moscow is not “overtly” destabilising its neighbour “does not mean that we can afford three months or four months or six months of continued violence and conflict in eastern Ukraine”, Obama said.

**DPA -** [**http://www.gulf-times.com/uk-europe/183/details/395072/us%3A-putin-has-%E2%80%98weeks%E2%80%99-to-change-ukraine-course**](http://www.gulf-times.com/uk-europe/183/details/395072/us%3A-putin-has-%E2%80%98weeks%E2%80%99-to-change-ukraine-course)

**DR Congo/Rwanda**

**Rwandan rebel group says more will surrender in DR Congo**

A second wave of Rwandan rebels from a group linked to the 1994 genocide in their homeland will turn themselves in on 9 June in the eastern DR Congo, a leader of the group said on 5 June. The rebels are members of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). More than 100 rebels turned themselves in on 30 May in the DR Congo's North Kivu province, handing over their weapons at a school. North Kivu's governor said they would now be given a choice between returning to Rwanda or seeking asylum in the DR Congo.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/rwandan-rebel-group-says-more-surrender-dr-congo-220957645.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/rwandan-rebel-group-says-more-surrender-dr-congo-220957645.html)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russian PM says 'thousands' fleeing across Ukraine border**

Thousands of Ukrainians are flooding across the border into Russia to escape the armed conflict, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on 5 June. Speaking a day after Ukraine denied a mass exodus, Medvedev said several thousand Ukrainians had applied for refugee status - even though Ukrainian nationals have the automatic right to stay three months in Russia.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/russian-pm-says-thousands-fleeing-across-ukraine-border-20140605**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/russian-pm-says-thousands-fleeing-across-ukraine-border-20140605)

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off\_the\_Wire/2014-06/06/content\_32585947.htm**](http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2014-06/06/content_32585947.htm)

**Two killed in Armenia-Azerbaijan border shootout**

Two Armenian troops died on 5 June in a fresh clash with Azerbaijani forces on the volatile border between the two countries, Armenia's defence ministry said. "Sergeant Andranik Egoyan, 26, and private Boris Gasparyan, 22, were mortally wounded by the Azerbaijani forces on the south-western sector of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border," the ministry said in a statement. There has been an increase in violence in recent months along the border and at the Karabakh frontline, with both sides regularly accusing the other of tit-for-tat raids. At least 14 soldiers from both sides have been killed so far this year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140605/two-killed-armenia-azerbaijan-border-shootout**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140605/two-killed-armenia-azerbaijan-border-shootout)

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Kosovo holds snap election in crucial test for PM**

Kosovo heads to the polls on Sunday in a snap election seen as a vital test for Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, and for the country's EU bid. Thaci, a former guerrilla leader turned politician, has led ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo for seven years, overseeing its 2008 declaration of independence from Serbia. He called the early election, originally scheduled for November, after Serb lawmakers blocked a vote on the creation of a national army. A significant turnout of 120,000 ethnic Serbs, especially in northern Kosovo where they are the majority, is crucial for the implementation of an EU-brokered landmark deal that has improved relations between former bitter foes in Pristina and Belgrade.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/kosovo-holds-snap-election-in-crucial-test-for-pm-536409**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/kosovo-holds-snap-election-in-crucial-test-for-pm-536409)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine closes border posts after night assaults**

Ukraine said on 5 June it had abandoned three checkpoints on the Russian border after a series of night-time attacks by separatists, and reporters on the scene said at least one had been taken over by the militants. The decision to leave the border posts came as the government vowed to beef up its security presence to counter pro-Russian rebels amid reports of continued fighting in the country's east. The three checkpoints, all in the volatile Lugansk region, were targeted in attacks by pro-Russian rebels overnight from 4 June to 5 June, the border guards said in a statement.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-closes-border-posts-night-assaults-222712368.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-closes-border-posts-night-assaults-222712368.html)

EAP

**China**

**China sentences 9 persons to death for Xinjiang attacks**

Chinese state media issued details Friday on 81 people sentenced on terror-related charges — nine of them to death — saying the bulk had belonged to terrorist organizations and committed murder and other violent crimes. The sentences issued Thursday came amid a massive crackdown in the western region of Xinjiang following four high-profile attacks on civilians since late October that have handed a major security challenge to President Xi Jinping during his first 15 months in office. The attacks have been blamed on extremists from the Xinjiang region’s native Turkic-speaking Uighurs seeking to overthrow Chinese rule and inspired by global jihadi ideology.

**AP -** [**http://time.com/2836835/china-sentences-9-persons-to-death-for-xinjiang-attacks/**](http://time.com/2836835/china-sentences-9-persons-to-death-for-xinjiang-attacks/)

**Thailand**

**Thai junta tracks Internet posting to capture protest leader**

Thailand's security forces have tracked down and detained a prominent activist who helped organise protests against last month's military coup from comments he posted on the Internet, officials said on Friday. Sombat Boonngamanong was caught in Chonburi province east of Bangkok late on Thursday, traced via the Internet network he was using, said Major General Pisit Pao-in, head of a technology crime division at the Information and Communication Technology Ministry.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140606050207-fg5ny/?source=fiTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140606050207-fg5ny/?source=fiTheWire)

**Thailand to freeze prices of many goods for six months**

Thailand's Commerce Ministry said on Friday that prices of many consumer goods would be frozen for six months to November to hold down living costs and boost the economy and confidence. The consumer goods include beverages, rice, palm oil, instant foods, dairy products, household products, animal feed and fertiliser. Inflation in Thailand accelerated in May to a 14-month high of 2.62 percent from a year earlier due to higher food and energy prices, with the core rate, which excludes fresh food and energy, picking up to 1.75 percent.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/06/06/Thailand-to-freeze-prices-of-many-goods-for-six-months/**](http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/06/06/Thailand-to-freeze-prices-of-many-goods-for-six-months/)

ESA

**Ethiopia**

**Terrorist attacks on Addis foiled - Security officials**

The media in Ethiopia reported that al-shabaab plans to bomb some targets in Addis Ababa were foiled after the security forces captured a bomber who is suspected to be a member of al-shabaab. They incident happened at Bole Mekaa'iil in Addis Ababa. Police believe that they were intending to explode that bomb at Addis Ababa Football Stadium where a match would take place.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201406051086.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201406051086.html)

**Mozambique**

**Renamo calls off 'ceasefire'**

Mozambique's revived rebel movement Renamo has called off a truce with government forces, warning on 5 June that armed attacks would spread from the main north-south highway across the country. Protracted peace talks with the Frelimo-led government are currently deadlocked over Renamo's demand for its members to occupy half the positions in the police and military. While Renamo still maintains it will take part in national and presidential polls later this year, it warned the conflict could intensify.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/renamo-calls-off-mozambique-ceasefire-130145904.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/renamo-calls-off-mozambique-ceasefire-130145904.html)

**Rwanda**

**Kagame declares 'shoot on sight' policy**

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has dismissed criticism of his government's human rights record, saying those suspected of threatening national security should even be killed on sight, reports said Friday. His comments, made in a speech in the west of the country on Thursday, came the day after Washington accused the nation of carrying out arbitrary arrests and urged Kagame to respect freedom of expression.

**AFP -** [**http://mobile.nation.co.ke/news/Kagame-anti-terror-policy-Rwanda/-/1950946/2339294/-/format/xhtml/-/146vooe/-/index.html**](http://mobile.nation.co.ke/news/Kagame-anti-terror-policy-Rwanda/-/1950946/2339294/-/format/xhtml/-/146vooe/-/index.html)

**Somalia**

**UN Warns of potential food crisis in Somalia**

The U.N. humanitarian chief warned Wednesday that Somalia is at risk of a severe food crisis and that 50,000 children under the age of five could die from severe malnutrition if funding is not received quickly. Valerie Amos told U.N. Security Council members that peace and stability gains made over the past two years could be in jeopardy if Somalia has to cope with a food crisis similar to the famine of 2011. “Approximately 857,000 people in Somalia require urgent and life-saving assistance," said Amos. "An additional 2 million people are on the margin of food insecurity and require continued livelihood support.” She noted that more than 1 million Somalis are displaced within their country and another million have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/un-warns-of-potential-food-crisis-in-somalia/1929869.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/un-warns-of-potential-food-crisis-in-somalia/1929869.html)

**Swaziland**

**Tutu leads Swaziland pro-democracy crusade**

South African Nobel peace laureate Desmond Tutu and a raft of human rights organisations have signed an open letter demanding reforms from Swaziland's King Mswati III, denouncing arbitrary arrests and prosecutions. "We write to express our concern about the state of freedom of expression, judicial independence, and the rule of law in the Kingdom of Swaziland," reads the letter, whose authenticity a Tutu spokesman confirmed Friday. The open letter urged the government "to begin meaningful discussions with the growing number of citizens and independent organisations that are demanding their basic freedoms and calling for democratic reform in Swaziland."

**AFP -** [**https://za.news.yahoo.com/tutu-leads-swaziland-pro-democracy-crusade-101213101.html**](https://za.news.yahoo.com/tutu-leads-swaziland-pro-democracy-crusade-101213101.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**Poll says Colombia presidential runoff a dead heat**

The latest poll in Colombia says President Juan Manuel Santos and challenger Oscar Ivan Zuluaga are in a dead heat a little more than a week before their presidential runoff election. The Invamer-Gallup poll Zuluaga was supported by 48.5 percent of those polled and Santos by about 48 percent. Some 4 percent say they don't plan to vote for either. The poll of 1,200 people in 55 cities published Thursday by the newspaper El Espectador has an error margin of three percentage points. Both men served in the Cabinet of hard-line President Alvaro Uribe, whose party chose Zuluaga as its candidate. Uribe was president in 2002-10 and is now a senator. The campaign's central theme has been the peace talks started by Santos with Colombia's main rebel group.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/poll-colombia-presidential-runoff-dead-heat-24020465**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/poll-colombia-presidential-runoff-dead-heat-24020465)

**Key Colombia oil pipeline shut again by bomb attack: source**

A bomb attack blamed on Colombia's leftist guerrillas has shut down the key Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, a source at state-run oil company Ecopetrol which owns the pipeline, said on Thursday. The explosion took place on a stretch of the 780-km pipeline in Norte de Santander province which borders Venezuela, the source said. Authorities are not yet certain who is responsible for the attack, but noted that the country’s two largest guerrilla groups, the [FARC](http://colombiareports.co/farc/) and the [ELN](http://colombiareports.co/eln/), are prevalent throughout the region.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/06/us-colombia-pipeline-idUSKBN0EH05G20140606**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/06/us-colombia-pipeline-idUSKBN0EH05G20140606)

**El Salvador**

**El Salvador gangs urge new president to tackle violence**

The heads of El Salvador's main street gangs urged the country's new president Salvador Sanchez Ceren to tackle criminals behind a recent wave of killings, declaring themselves blameless on Thursday for the violence gripping the Central American nation. The leaders of five gangs known as maras, including the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and its rival Barrio 18, blamed criminal groups trying to create instability in El Salvador to justify death squads they said were attacking their members. "We hope the new government will take a firm stand against these groups," the gangs said in a statement issued by a group of churches who are backing a 2012 truce signed by the maras.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0EH0K720140606**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0EH0K720140606)

**Guyana**

**Health Minister confirms more cases of chikungunya virus**

A mosquito-borne virus that has been spreading fast since the first locally transmitted case in the Western Hemisphere has infected at least 12 more people in Guyana. The Caribbean Public Health Agency confirmed the new cases of chikungunya from among 130 blood samples collected in Guyana, the Health Minister reported. The new infections occurred near the border with Suriname and about 20 miles from where the first two cases were documented in Guyana last week, the Health Minister said. The government is spraying pesticides to control the two species of mosquitoes that spread the virus. Guyana was the second place in mainland South America to report a locally transmitted case after French Guiana.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/guyana-confirms-more-cases-virus-region-151738190.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/guyana-confirms-more-cases-virus-region-151738190.html)

**Haiti**

**Thousands call for elections**

Thousands of Haitians took to the streets of Port-au-Prince on 5 June to demand that the Haitian President step down and new elections be held. Protesters brandished signs calling on Canada, France and the United States to "help Haitians get rid of the leaders in power." Opposition chiefs marched at the front of the demonstration down several streets of the capital before police dispersed the crowd using teargas. Legislative elections for around 100 members of the Chamber of Deputies, 20 senators and municipal leaders are set to take place on 26 October after multiple delays.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-call-elections-haiti-225146821.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-call-elections-haiti-225146821.html)

**Mexico**

**Storm over Bay of Campeche has 50 pct chance of becoming cyclone-NHC**

A low-pressure system over the southern Bay of Campeche has a 50 percent chance of becoming a tropical cyclone during the next 48 hours, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said on Friday. "Regardless of development, this disturbance will continue to produce extremely heavy rains, along with life-threatening flash floods and mud slides, over portions of southeastern Mexico during the next few days," the Miami-based weather forecaster said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140606060038-ai5nl**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140606060038-ai5nl)

**Paraguay**

**75,000 families evacuated due to floods**

Floods caused by torrential rains have forced the evacuation of 75,000 families living in low-lying areas near the Paraguay River, officials said. The Paraguay weather service director said the heavy rains started with 221 millimeters falling in Asuncion in just one day. The 75,000 flood-hit families are located in areas of Asuncion and small towns along the river, according to Paraguay's National Emergency Secretariat. The health and public works ministries have been working to unblock flooded roads and vaccinate children and senior citizens, who are most vulnerable to respiratory illnesses.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/75-000-families-evacuated-due-paraguay-floods-175759762.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/75-000-families-evacuated-due-paraguay-floods-175759762.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**UNHCR considers Tunisian camps for possible Libyan influx**

UNHCR in Tunisia has confirmed that it is in talks with the Tunisian government about re-establishing refugee camps to cope with any mass flight from Libya. Unofficial reports have suggested that plans to re-open Choucha, one of the camps set up during the Libyan revolution are under active discussion. Choucha, just across the border from Libya was used primarily to house third country nationals who had fled the Libyan fighting. The last refugees there were only moved out last year.

**Libya Herald -** [**http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/06/04/unhcr-considers-tunisian-camps-for-possible-libyan-influx/#axzz33lBMr6K9**](http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/06/04/unhcr-considers-tunisian-camps-for-possible-libyan-influx/#axzz33lBMr6K9)

**Egypt**

**Egypt criminalises sexual harassment for first time**

Egypt has criminalised sexual harassment for the first time, in a move that campaigners say is just the first step towards ending an endemic problem. Egypt's outgoing president, Adly Mansour, issued a decree that categorised sexual harassment as a crime punishable by a minimum six-month jail term and a fine worth 3,000 Egyptian pounds – with increased penalties for employers and repeat offenders. Sexual harassers have been prosecuted on rare occasions in the past in Egypt – but only on vaguer charges of physical assault, and even then the defendants have often been found innocent. UN research from 2013 suggested that 99.3% of Egyptian women had experienced sexual harassment – but it is often the victims who are blamed for their experience, rather than the harassers.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/06/egypt-criminalises-sexual-harassment**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/06/egypt-criminalises-sexual-harassment)

**Amnesty International warns of Egyptian authorities’ plans to monitor social media**

Human rights watchdog Amnesty International (AI) condemned Wednesday Egyptian authorities alleged plans to enact “indiscriminate surveillance” on social media which the group believes would “deal a devastating blow to the rights to privacy and freedom of expression in the country”. The statement comes on the heels of a leaked Ministry of Interior document that suggests the ministry is searching for tenders to create surveillance software to monitor at least 26 topics ranging from defamation of religion, calling for illegal strikes and demonstrations as well as terrorism and violence.

**Daily News -** [**http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/06/06/amnesty-international-warns-egyptian-authorities-plans-monitor-social-media/**](http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/06/06/amnesty-international-warns-egyptian-authorities-plans-monitor-social-media/)

**Egypt political parties concerned over new parliamentary election law**

A law passed by Egypt's interim president will set the stage for parliamentary elections this year but political parties fear it will return the country to a system similar to one under ousted president Hosni Mubarak. One of the most significant changes in the election law is a return to a system where individual candidates take the majority of seats in parliament, rather than party lists of candidates. Of the 540 parliament members to be elected, 420 will be drawn from individual candidate lists while 120 will be from absolute closed lists. Such an arrangement would weaken the position of political parties in the country where they already have little influence on the ground, politicians say.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/06/us-egypt-election-idUSKBN0EH16L20140606**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/06/us-egypt-election-idUSKBN0EH16L20140606)

**Iraq**

**Suicide bombers, fighting kill 33 in northern Iraq**

Twin suicide bombings targeting Iraq´s Shabak minority and fighting between security forces and militants killed 33 people in the northern province of Nineveh on Friday, officials said. The two suicide bombers blew up vehicles in the Shabak village of Al-Muwaffaqiyah, east of the city, killing four people and wounding 45, police and medical officials said. Most of Iraq´s 30,000 Shabaks follow a blend of Shiite Islam and local beliefs viewed as heretical by Sunni Islamist groups and they have been periodically targeted for attack.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-149955-Suicide-bombers,-fighting-kill-33-in-northern-Iraq**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-149955-Suicide-bombers,-fighting-kill-33-in-northern-Iraq)

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/06/06/officials-double-car-bomb-attack-kills-7-people-in-northern-iraq/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/06/06/officials-double-car-bomb-attack-kills-7-people-in-northern-iraq/)

**Lebanon**

**Lebanon revises open-door refugee policy**

Lebanon has issued new measures that could overhaul its previous open-door refugee strategy, leaving aid organisations and Syrian refugees uncertain about the new policy's impact on the ground. The changes were announced last week, after a statement issued by Interior Minister Nouhad Machnouk warned Syrians registered with UNHCR to refrain from returning to Syria or risk losing their refugee status in Lebanon. Last Monday, the Cabinet's ministerial committee tasked to manage the refugee file, chaired by Prime Minister Tammam Salam, agreed to not only revoke refugee status upon re-entry into Lebanon, but to only permit entry to those coming from Syrian areas near the Lebanese borders that witness persistent armed conflict.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/lebanon-revises-open-door-refugee-policy-201466744881995.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/lebanon-revises-open-door-refugee-policy-201466744881995.html)

**Libya**

**Coastguard detains 114 African migrants in packed boat**

Libya's coastguard detained 114 African migrants in a packed boat headed for Europe on Thursday, officials said. Some 43,000 migrants have crossed from North Africa to Italy so far this year, mostly via Libya where a weak central government is struggling to secure its porous land and sea borders. "We arrested this group of illegal migrants during our daily patrol early this morning," a coastguard official told Reuters as the boat was brought to shore at Gharbouli east of Tripoli. The area is frequented by human traffickers exploiting the weakness of Libya's state authorities since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-coastguard-detains-114-african-migrants-packed-boat-200116333.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-coastguard-detains-114-african-migrants-packed-boat-200116333.html)

**Libya's Intelligence chief resigns amid power struggle**

Libya's intelligence chief has resigned amid an intensifying power struggle between the Islamist-dominated parliament and a rival interim government. Salem al-Hassi on Thursday submitted his resignation to parliament, Mohammed al-Arisha, an MP, told the Associated Press news agency without elaborating. Al-Wasat news portal said al-Hassi resigned because he was frustrated with parliament's insistence on appointing a new prime minister, a move that has intensified the political crisis. The resignation came as Libya's Supreme Constitutional Court convened to decide on the legality of the election of Islamist-backed Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteg. The court said it would issue its ruling on July 9.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/libya-spy-chief-resigns-amid-power-struggle-201466793931773.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/libya-spy-chief-resigns-amid-power-struggle-201466793931773.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Palestinians object to new settlements**

New Israeli plans for settlement construction in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as retaliation against the new Palestinian consensus government backed by Hamas have added to tensions between Israel and Washington and prompted threats Thursday of countermeasures from Palestinian officials. The Israeli Housing Ministry published bids late Wednesday for the construction of nearly 1,500 housing units in various settlements in what the housing minister, Uri Ariel, called “an appropriate Zionist response to the establishment of the Palestinian terror government.” He added in a statement that he believed the marketing of these units “will be just the beginning.”

**NY Times -** [**http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2014/06/05/new-israeli-settlement-plans-draw-swift-condemnation/tKKJIJt16mtDRiGvmLxY3O/story.html**](http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2014/06/05/new-israeli-settlement-plans-draw-swift-condemnation/tKKJIJt16mtDRiGvmLxY3O/story.html)

**Sudan**

**39 rape victims in two months at South Darfur’s Kalma camp**

A total of 39 displaced women and girls from Kalma camp in South Darfur, were the victims of rape during April and May 2014. Almost all of the rapes occurred while the women were collecting firewood, or other essential tasks such as gathering hay, palm leaves, or tending crops. The victims, aged from 13 to 38, all fell to armed ‘Janjaweed’ militiamen. Saleh Issa, the Secretary General of Kalma camp told Radio Dabanga that there were 24 cases in April and 15 in May. “All the rapes were committed at gunpoint. In 16 cases, victims suffered three or four-hour gang-rape ordeals.”

**Radio Dabanga -** [**https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/74402**](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/74402)

**Syria**

**Amnesty says ISIS killed seven children in north**

Seven children were among 15 civilians killed by jihadist rebels in a feud with Kurds in the north-east of Syria, Amnesty International says. Fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Isis) targeted families working in a farming community in Hassakeh province in May, it adds. It followed fighting between Isis and Kurdish armed groups in the area. The al-Qaeda-linked group is currently battling rival rebels in the north, as well as the Syrian government.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27726035**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27726035)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan presidential front-runner escapes assassination attempt**

Afghan presidential front-runner Abdullah Abdullah escaped an assassination attempt Friday during a campaign event in Kabul. Two explosions targeted the event as he was leaving the venue. Mr. Abdullah's spokesman said that the politician was unhurt. Afghanistan's Tolo News TV quoted Mr. Abdullah as saying minutes after the attack that his car had been hit. He said former foreign minister Zalmai Rassoul, who finished third in the first round of elections, was in the same car and was also safe, according to Tolo. The extent of casualties in the area wasn't immediately clear. There was also no immediate claim of responsibility.

**WSJ -** [**http://online.wsj.com/articles/afghan-presidential-front-runner-escapes-assassination-attempt-1402043894?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304710104579607562194247826.html**](http://online.wsj.com/articles/afghan-presidential-front-runner-escapes-assassination-attempt-1402043894?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304710104579607562194247826.html)

**India**

**Clashes at India's Golden Temple on raid anniversary**

Clashes broke out between sword-wielding Sikhs on Friday at the Golden Temple in northern India on the 30th anniversary of a notorious army raid on the site. At least two people were wounded in the violence, according to an AFP photographer at the temple in the city of Amritsar, which is the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion. Hundreds of Sikhs had gathered at the shrine to pay their respects to those killed in the June 6, 1984 raid of the temple by Indian troops aimed at flushing out armed separatists demanding an independent Sikh homeland..

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/clashes-at-india-s-golden/1139256.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/clashes-at-india-s-golden/1139256.html)

**Pakistan**

**Civilians begin to flee new offensive against Pakistan militants**

More than 17,000 people that have fled North Waziristan in the last month, according to the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), which assists IDPs in the region. According to officials, up to 800 people have also fled across the border to Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces. Weeks of aerial strikes and ground skirmishes between soldiers and Taliban fighters have reportedly killed 70 people, including at least 30 civilians. But until Pakistani officials declare North Waziristan a conflict zone, the FDMA, along with international aid organizations, cannot begin to provide shelter or relief to fleeing residents. The FDMA expects as many as 628,000 IDPs could flee the region.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100175/civilians-begin-to-flee-new-offensive-against-pakistan-militants**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100175/civilians-begin-to-flee-new-offensive-against-pakistan-militants)

**More arrests made in stoning death of pregnant woman**

After a series of raids, police made new arrests in the public stoning death of a pregnant Pakistani woman, bringing the total of people in custody to 12. Farzana Parveen, 25, was killed in Lahore last month because she married a man against her family's wishes. The latest arrests include her two brothers and her ex-husband. The mob of 28 people that attacked her included members of her immediate family, authorities said. Shortly after her death, police arrested five people, including her father, her uncle, two cousins and the driver who brought the relatives to Lahore.

**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/05/world/asia/pakistan-stoning-death/**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/05/world/asia/pakistan-stoning-death/)

**Pakistan Taliban faction revokes peace pact**

A major Taliban faction in Pakistan’s tribal North Waziristan region has revoked a peace accord with the government, accusing it of violating an agreement after more than 100 rebel fighters were killed in a military offensive. Last week, Hafiz Gul Bahadar announced they would take up arms after June 10 to defend the region against any planned military intervention. The Taliban also asked locals Wazir tribes to either join their ranks or migrate to the neighbouring Afghanistan.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/06/pakistan-taliban-faction-revokes-peace-pact-201465103046107353.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/06/pakistan-taliban-faction-revokes-peace-pact-201465103046107353.html)

**Sri Lanka**

**Flash floods affect over 100,000 in Western Sri Lanka**

An estimated 107,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and extensive floods in western districts of Sri Lanka. Over 17,000 people were displaced due to the heavy rains in Kalutara, and extensive damage to roads and bridges has hampered relief efforts.

**IFRC -** [**http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-flash-floods-affect-over-40000-in-western-sri-lanka--66090/**](http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-flash-floods-affect-over-40000-in-western-sri-lanka--66090/)

**Sri Lanka says no to devolution of powers**

The Sri Lankan government has announced that they would not fully devolve police and land powers to provincial governments as per the country's constitution, despite growing pressure from India's new government. Speaking in Parliament, Minister of External Affairs, Professor GL Peiris, said on Thursday that the government would not be implementing the 13th amendment in its current form. The 13th amendment, which was conceptualised in 1987 after India's mediation efforts, calls for the devolution of land and police powers to the Provincial Councils as a means to improve ties between majority Sinhala and Tamil community.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/06/sri-lanka-says-no-devolution-powers-201465113226225987.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/06/sri-lanka-says-no-devolution-powers-201465113226225987.html)

WCA

**CAR**

**UN inquiry finds war crimes on both sides**

UN investigators say talk of genocide or ethnic cleaning in the CAR is premature, but that evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity exists on both sides. An international commission of inquiry appointed by UN chief Ban Ki-moon in January has submitted an interim report to Security Council members. The preliminary UN report described the conflict as political. "The fact that there is an anti-Muslim propaganda from certain non-Muslim quarters does not mean that genocide is being planned or that there is any conspiracy to commit genocide or even a specific intent to commit genocide," it said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-inquiry-finds-war-crimes-both-sides-c-235127020.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-inquiry-finds-war-crimes-both-sides-c-235127020.html)

**DR Congo**

**More than 300 inmates escape DR Congo jail**

At least six people have been killed after 301 inmates staged a dawn jailbreak from an eastern Democratic Republic of Congo prison, media and an official said. Gunfire rang out shortly before sunrise on Thursday at the prison in the city of Bukavu, residents said. The inmates managed to force their way through the main gate a short while later. "We have just finished the tally, there were a total of 301 escapees, but 35 have already been recaptured," a police officer told AFP news agency, requesting anonymity. The inmates managed to open the prison doors after taking weapons from guards, according to the officer.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/more-than-300-inmates-escape-dr-congo-jail-201465153427407486.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/more-than-300-inmates-escape-dr-congo-jail-201465153427407486.html)

**Mali**

**Mali imposes national military service amid separatist tensions**

Mali is to introduce compulsory national service for men and women aged 18 to 35, the government announced, after clashes between northern Tuareg separatists and the army last month. A communique issued following Wednesday's cabinet meeting said President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's government had taken the decision to impose six-month national service "to develop a feeling of patriotism and the instinct for national defense". "The legislative texts will be adopted by the end of the year so the scheme can start from 2015," Mahamar Mohamed El Moctar, chief of staff at the Youth Ministry, told Reuters on Thursday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/05/us-mali-military-idUSKBN0EG29V20140605?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/05/us-mali-military-idUSKBN0EG29V20140605?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Niger**

**Niger destroys migrants' safe houses, asks for international help**

Authorities in Niger have destroyed safe houses owned by human trafficking networks for sheltering illegal migrants and forcibly turned back anyone without a valid identity document in towns near its northern border, a government minister said on Thursday. The government has promised to crack down on smuggling gangs ferrying people across the desert after 92 migrants died trying to make the same trip north to Algeria last year, many of them headed for Europe. The start of the summer migration season has seen a dramatic rise in the number of illegal migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Italy from the north coast of Africa.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/niger-destroys-migrants-safe-houses-asks-international-help-133517468.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/niger-destroys-migrants-safe-houses-asks-international-help-133517468.html)

**Nigeria**

**Soldiers arrest 13-year-old girl for spying for Boko Haram**

Special Forces of the Nigerian Army Unit in Gwoza, Borno State, have arrested a 13-year-old girl for spying on the military formation for the members of Boko Haram, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported. A security source said the soldiers who picked up the girl were said to be stunned when they found an AK 47 assault rifle in her residence. It was further gathered that the girl led the soldiers to three other girls who were also said to have been recruited by Boko Haram to spy on military formations. However, the source did not say whether the soldiers found any lead in the residents of the other girls said to be undergoing interrogation. It was further stated that there were fears in security circles that the insurgents might have embarked on the recruitment of children to get information on military formations for possible attacks.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201406060909.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201406060909.html)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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