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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**African nations give rebels in DRC six months to disarm**

African nations have agreed to suspend military operations for six months against Rwandan rebels in DRC to give them more time to lay down their arms, regional government officials said. The rebels offered to disarm and take up political dialogue on 30 May but so far only around 200 fighters have surrendered out of an estimated 1,500. The FDLR continues to prepare militarily despite claiming readiness to lay down its arms, UN experts said in an interim report on Thursday. "In contrast to claims that it is ready to disarm, FDLR continues to recruit and train combatants, including children," the report said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140703195901-whbxq/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140703195901-whbxq/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Al-Qaeda may be building new phone and shoe bombs, warns US**

American officials have warned that al-Qaeda may have developed a new type of shoe bomb and explosives that could be fitted into smartphones. It is feared that the master bombmaker Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri, from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), has developed an explosive that could evade current security checks. In the clearest indication yet on the new threat, US officials warned partners to focus on smartphones and shoes. Devices such as iPhones and Samsung Galaxy phones were singled out for extra security checks on flights to America from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. It is feared that Asiri may also have perfected a new type of shoe bomb.

**Telegraph -** [**http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10947762/Al-Qaeda-may-be-building-new-phone-and-shoe-bombs-warns-America.html**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10947762/Al-Qaeda-may-be-building-new-phone-and-shoe-bombs-warns-America.html)

**UNHCR concerned over forced returns of refugee and asylum-seekers from Sudan**

UNHCR is deeply concerned over recent forced returns, or refoulement, of Eritrean and other asylum seekers and refugees from Sudan. These include an incident on 30 June in Eastern Sudan where 74 Eritreans were sent back to Eritrea through Laffa border crossing point, according to information received from immigration authorities. The asylum-seekers had been convicted on charges of illegal entry into Sudan under national immigration laws. They were not given access to asylum procedures in order to have their claims reviewed by the competent authorities.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/53b69a4f9.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/53b69a4f9.html)

**MERS deadly but most cases are preventable: UN**

Infection rates for the Middle East respiratory syndrome are slowing and scientists hope to know enough in a year or so to be able to stop the dangerous coronavirus from spreading further internationally, a top UN health official says. Most of the 824 confirmed cases of MERS since 2013, including at least 286 deaths, could have been prevented, Dr. Keiji Fukuda, assistant director-general of WHO said. About 40% of the people who became infected have died, he said, calling that "a much higher-than-normal fatality rate" for a virus.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/mers-deadly-cases-preventable-24411676**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/mers-deadly-cases-preventable-24411676)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Kurdish rebels to restart withdrawal in September: report**

Kurdish rebels will begin a stalled withdrawal from Turkey into their safe haven in northern Iraq after parliament passes reforms aimed at ending a decades-long insurgency, local media reported on Saturday. In an apparent bid to secure votes from the Kurdish community ahead of presidential polls in August, PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government submitted a bill to parliament last week that would remove a number of barriers to a final agreement. The six-article package of reforms would grant immunity to key actors involved in the peace talks with the outlawed PKK, which was hailed as a "historic development" by the group's imprisoned leader Abdullah Ocalan. The withdrawal process is due to be finalised within 18 months, it added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137566-report-kurdish-rebels-to-restart-withdrawal-in-september**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137566-report-kurdish-rebels-to-restart-withdrawal-in-september)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine says forces will press forward after taking rebel stronghold**

Ukraine's government said it would quickly seize more territory from pro-Russian separatists after re-taking their stronghold of Slaviansk in what President Petro Poroshenko called a turning point in the fight for control of the country's east. "My order is now in effect - tighten the ring around the terrorists," Poroshenko tweeted on Sunday. "Continue the operation to liberate Donetsk and Luhansk regions," he said, naming Ukraine's two major eastern parts which have boiled with separatist rebellion since April. There were no immediate figures for casualties caused by the government offensive in Slaviansk, launched after Poroshenko refused to renew a unilateral ceasefire and ordered the resumption of a government offensive on June 30.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140706143343-a4gu9/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140706143343-a4gu9/?source=search)

**Ukraine's new defense minister vows Crimea victory**

New Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Heletey has vowed to hold "a victory parade" in Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in March. Addressing parliament on July 3, Colonel General Heletey said, "Believe me, there will be a victory parade - there will be for sure - in Ukraine's Sevastopol." Heletey, a former policeman who headed the state's VIP bodyguard service, was approved by lawmakers after being recommended by President Petro Poroshenko. Lieutenant General Viktor Muzhenko, a career soldier trained in the Soviet Union, was confirmed as the new head of the joint chiefs of staff.

**RFE/RL-** [**http://www.rferl.org/content/fighting-continues-as-ukrainian-president-announces-/25444257.html**](http://www.rferl.org/content/fighting-continues-as-ukrainian-president-announces-/25444257.html)

EAP

**China**

**Muslims in Xinjiang told to ignore Ramadan customs**

Officials in China's restive western region of Xinjiang have told Muslims to ignore religious customs during the holy month of Ramadan, an indication of what rights groups say is discrimination targeting the Uighur minority group. The fasting month follows a series of attacks around China, centred on Xinjiang, that Beijing has blamed on Islamists they say are seeking to establish an independent state called East Turkestan. State media reports of official notices have emerged in recent days, demanding that party members, civil servants, students and teachers not to observe Ramadan. Officials in the region have compelled some Muslim restaurant owners to remain open for the month which began last Saturday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140704091524-zkqcp**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140704091524-zkqcp)

**China issues orange alert for Typhoon Neoguri**

China's National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC) on Monday issued an orange alert for high seas likely to be generated by Typhoon Neoguri within the next 24 hours. Typhoon Neoguri, the eighth typhoon of this year, is expected to arrive in the southeastern part of the East China Sea on Tuesday morning. China has a four-tier color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

**Xinhua-** [**http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off\_the\_Wire/2014-07/07/content\_32876483.htm**](http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2014-07/07/content_32876483.htm)

**Myanmar**

**Mob burns school in riot-hit Mandalay**

Muslims in Mandalay accused police on Saturday of standing by as a Buddhist mob went on a rampage, torching a school and other buildings. Angry mourners, some carrying crude weapons, rioted after the funeral of a 36-year-old Buddhist victim of the country's latest eruption of religious unrest, witnesses said. A school and dormitory in the Muslim area of a cemetery on the outskirts of the city were seen charred and damaged on Saturday. No children were believed to be in the school at the time and nobody was thought to have been injured in the attack.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/mob-burns-school-in-riot/1238608.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/mob-burns-school-in-riot/1238608.html)

**Buddhists threaten death to Muslims in Mandalay unrest**

Myanmar police cordoned off Mandalay's Muslim neighbourhood as hundreds of Buddhists wielding knives, swords and bamboo poles roamed the city on Friday, following communal riots that killed two people earlier in the week. Around 300 Buddhists rode motorcycles around Myanmar's second largest city of Mandalay on Friday, shouting death threats. A Muslim man was also killed, beaten to death early on Thursday on his way to morning prayers. Police erected barriers lined with barbed wire to block roads into a predominantly Muslim neighbourhood and prevented the Buddhists on motorcycles from entering. Officers in riot gear patrolled the streets.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140704102840-etpuv/?source=fiHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140704102840-etpuv/?source=fiHeadlineStory)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140704062641-tezxp/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140704062641-tezxp/?source=search)

**Urgent need to improve the situation of children in Rakhine State - UNICEF**

More than 105,000 children in Myanmar’s Rakhine State have been affected by inter-communal violence, including 78,000 IDPs children living in rural camps in appalling conditions. Half of all children under five in Rakhine State suffer from stunting; nearly 90% are born outside of a health facility; and one in three children is not attending primary school. Over the past year UNICEF has reached hundreds of thousands of children in Rakhine State with lifesaving assistance. In 2013, 300,000 children across Rakhine State were immunized against polio, with UNICEF aiming to reach 236,000 people with measles, polio, tetanus toxoid and other vaccines this year.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_74002.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_74002.html)

**Philippines**

**Death in displacement: Why the government must allow Zamboanga’s IDPs to go back home**

On a recent mission to Zamboanga, IDMC’s regional analyst visited some of the camps hosting nearly half of the 64,000 people who remain displaced following heavy fighting between the government and a rebel group last September. Almost ten months on, the death toll continues to rise with reports of displaced people – particularly children –dying in the terrible conditions of the overcrowded camps, yet numerous bureaucratic barriers prevent them from going home.

**IDMC -** [**http://www.internal-displacement.org/blog/2014/death-in-displacement-why-the-philippine-government-must-allow-zamboangas-idps-to-go-back-home**](http://www.internal-displacement.org/blog/2014/death-in-displacement-why-the-philippine-government-must-allow-zamboangas-idps-to-go-back-home)

**Thailand**

**Thai junta says peace in restive south a national priority**

Thailand's military government said on Monday peace in the south was an "urgent national priority" for the Buddhist-majority country following a decade of unrest blamed on separatists. The message comes a week after the start of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan and days after the new government, led by General Prayuth Chan-ocha, said it would revive talks aimed at bringing peace to the provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat. "The south is an urgent national priority. Prayuth wants firmer measures and more success in the south," Udomdet Sitabutr, secretary-general of the ruling National Council for Peace and Order, told reporters ahead of a visit to the region.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140707053039-0bzg5/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140707053039-0bzg5/?source=search)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Gunmen kill at least 29 in latest raids on Kenyan coast**

Gunmen killed at least 29 people in two coastal areas of Kenya in raids the deputy president indicated on Sunday were the work of political rivals, despite al Shabaab claiming responsibility. The raids will deepen public frustrations about poor security, a day before a big opposition rally in the capital. The Interior Ministry said one of the Saturday night attacks killed nine in the trading town of Hindi in Lamu County, close to where 65 people were killed by gunmen last month in Mpeketoni. Another was further south in the Gamba area, where 20 died.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/06/us-kenya-attacks-idUSKBN0FB05R20140706**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/06/us-kenya-attacks-idUSKBN0FB05R20140706)

**Kenyan police fire tear gas at street demonstrators before rally**

Police fired tear gas in central Nairobi on Monday to disperse a crowd of few hundred anti-government demonstrators in the streets as others gathered peacefully for a mass rally called by the opposition at a nearby park. The demonstrators opposed to President Uhuru Kenyatta and carrying posters of opposition leader Raila Coding chanted "Uhuru must go" and climbed over statues, prompting police to fire half-a-dozen tear gas canisters. They swiftly dispersed. Odinga, Kenyatta's main opponent in last year's election, called for Monday's rally to demand dialogue over recent militant assaults, an economic slowdown and other grievances. He has said it is not a bid to unseat the government.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/kenyan-police-fire-tear-gas-street-demonstrators-rally-084658449.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/kenyan-police-fire-tear-gas-street-demonstrators-rally-084658449.html)

**Somalia**

**UN sees warning signs of acute food insecurity – UNICEF mention**

Hunger is set to worsen in Somalia due to rising food prices, patchy rains and a lack of access to people in need, undermining efforts to rebuild the conflict-scarred country, senior UN officials said. The last two rainy seasons, which people rely upon to grow food and provide for their cattle and goats, have been poor. Many Somalis are still reeling from famine in 2011, which killed 260,000 people and was caused by drought, conflict and a ban on food aid in territory held by al-Shabaab. “We have a small but critical window to do what’s needed to prevent a repeat of 2011,” said Ted Chaiban, Director of UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes. “Somalia is at a crossroads. Today, 50,000 children are severely malnourished, including many at risk of death within weeks if they do not get the treatment they need.”

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140703094643-a0kvj/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140703094643-a0kvj/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**At least five killed in attacks in capital**

Five soldiers and police were killed in Mogadishu on Saturday and a dozen others were wounded in bomb and gun attacks by Islamist militants, police and witnesses said. Al-Shebaab, who have threatened to step up attacks during Ramadan, said they detonated a car bomb that killed two soldiers guarding the Somali parliament, a few hundred metres from the presidential compound. "This is our second attack against the parliament building and we shall continue it," said Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's spokesman for military operations. Police said soldiers guarding the parliament building had prevented it reaching its target.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140705152124-hmwdf/?source=fiHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140705152124-hmwdf/?source=fiHeadlineStory)

**South Sudan**

**Heavy rains, ongoing violence push country towards 'hunger catastrophe', warns WFP**

Already working hard to get supplies to people in South Sudan cut off by flooded roads, WFP warned that the rains, as well as the ongoing fighting, are pushing the country towards a “hunger catastrophe.” “Fighting has led to alarming food insecurity in areas isolated by conflict,” WFP spokesperson Elisabeth Byers said today in Geneva, explaining that the agency is facing serious challenges in transporting food to “deep field” locations due to access and security concerns. This has hampered WFP's annual pre-positioning exercise, in which it stocks up warehouses in areas that will become inaccessible during the rainy season. Heavy rains had made most of the roads in Unity State impassable, she added.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48207&Cr=South%20Sudan&Cr1=#.U7kd5WjD\_ct**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48207&Cr=South%20Sudan&Cr1=#.U7kd5WjD_ct)

**Uganda**

**Uganda army kills 41 near DRC**

Ugandan troops have killed 41 during a major battle in the western district of Bundibuguyo near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda's army spokesman said. "There was an attack by tribal gunmen on our barracks in Bundibugyo and we repulsed them, killing so far 41 of the attackers. The operation is ongoing," the army spokesman, Paddy Ankunda, told AFP news agency on Sunday. The clashes came hours after the army announced it had killed a person suspected of involvement in an attack by Muslims two weeks ago at a church in the border region, during which a woman was decapitated and her head placed on the altar.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/uganda-army-says-killed-41-drc-border-20147672639973715.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/uganda-army-says-killed-41-drc-border-20147672639973715.html)

LAC

**Bolivia**

**Congress allows child labour from age 10**

Bolivian lawmakers have approved child workers as young as 10 years old, under a new law that lays out specific conditions for employing children. Congress passed the measure by consensus on Wednesday, requiring employers to follow certain criteria to ensure the physical and mental health of employed children, and to prevent child exploitation. "The age limit, as defined formally by the Code for Children and Adolescents, is 14 years old," Senator Adolfo Mendoza said after the enactment of the bill, which he co-sponsored. But the new code allows exceptions, when specific legal criteria have been met, so that children may begin "working for others from age 12, which is allowed by international conventions, and self-employment from age 10."

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/Bolivia-congress-allows-child-labour-from-age-10/articleshow/37737459.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/Bolivia-congress-allows-child-labour-from-age-10/articleshow/37737459.cms)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Militants attack Yemen-Saudi border post**

Militants struck a border post between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in an attack that left two soldiers and three of the gunmen dead, officials said Saturday. The violence began Friday when a suicide car bomber struck the Yemeni side of the border post in the al-Wadia area on Friday, killing one Yemeni soldier and wounding another, according to Yemen's official news agency. SABA said other gunmen then fled in two cars toward Saudi Arabia after border guards opened fire.

**AP -** [**http://www.bnd.com/2014/07/05/3288562/militants-attack-yemen-saudi-border.html**](http://www.bnd.com/2014/07/05/3288562/militants-attack-yemen-saudi-border.html)

**Clashes spill into Israel over 'burned alive' Palestinian teen**

Clashes sparked by the abduction and murder of a Palestinian teenager spread from east Jerusalem to Arab towns inside Israel on Saturday, as autopsy reports showed he was burned alive. Rocket fire targeting Israel from Gaza also increased, raising fears of an escalation with Hamas. Mohammed Abu Khder, 16, was abducted from his Shuafat neighbourhood in occupied east Jerusalem early Wednesday, and his charred body found hours later in a west Jerusalem forest. Palestinians said Jewish extremists killed him in revenge for the kidnapping and murder in the West Bank last month of three Israeli teenagers.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/clashes-spill-israel-over-burned-alive-palestinian-teen-192510681.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/clashes-spill-israel-over-burned-alive-palestinian-teen-192510681.html)

**Israel PM warns cabinet to 'act responsibly' over Gaza**

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu urged his cabinet on Sunday to keep a cool head about how to handle growing tensions in and around the Gaza Strip. "Experience has proved that at moments like this, we have to act responsibly and with a cool head and not with harsh words and impetuousness," he told ministers, who are fiercely divided over how to respond to mounting militant rocket fire on southern Israel. Tensions with Gaza began in mid-June after Israel began a major crackdown on the occupied West Bank to find militants behind the kidnap of three Israeli teenagers, whose bodies were found last week. But, despite 135 rockets hitting Israel over the past 24 days, and another 21 intercepted by the Iron Dome air defence system, Israel's response has been largely restrained.

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Israel-PM-warns-cabinet-to-act-responsibly-over-Gaza/articleshow/37900707.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Israel-PM-warns-cabinet-to-act-responsibly-over-Gaza/articleshow/37900707.cms)

**Egypt**

**Court sentences Brotherhood leader, 36 Islamists to life**

An Egyptian court sentenced Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie and 36 other Islamists to life in prison Saturday, and confirmed death sentences for 10 others, most of them on the run. Badie, convicted of involvement in deadly protests, had already received death sentences in two other cases in a crackdown on Islamist opposition after last year's military ouster of president Mohamed Morsi. Of the 10 defendants condemned to death last month in the same case, whose sentences were confirmed, an Islamic cleric has since been arrested. Another defendant was sentenced to three years.

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Egypt-court-sentences-Brotherhood-leader-36-Islamists-to-life/articleshow/37837220.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Egypt-court-sentences-Brotherhood-leader-36-Islamists-to-life/articleshow/37837220.cms)

**Sisi slashes fuel subsidies in risky move**

Egypt has drastically raised fuel prices overnight to tackle a bloated subsidy system, in a potentially unpopular move that might blow back on newly elected President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. With the economy battered by three years of unrest, successive governments have said the subsidies that allowed Egyptians to buy gasoline at some of the world's cheapest prices must be lifted. Taxi drivers protested in the Suez Canal city of Ismailiya on Saturday, blocking off roads near the provincial headquarters, an AFP correspondent reported. In Cairo, their enraged colleagues queued at gas stations after the prices went up.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140705/egypts-sisi-slashes-fuel-subsidies-risky-move-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140705/egypts-sisi-slashes-fuel-subsidies-risky-move-0)

**Iraq**

**Iraq parliament delays session until August**

Iraq's newly elected parliament has postponed its next session until August 12, state television said, amid political deadlock over choosing a new prime minister. Parliament met last Tuesday for the first time since its election in April and had planned to meet again this Tuesday. The office of acting parliamentary speaker, Mehdi al-Hafidh, confirmed to the Reuters news agency that the session had been postponed but did not give further details. He said parliament would soon issue a statement.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/iraq-parliament-delays-session-until-august-2014779534996922.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/iraq-parliament-delays-session-until-august-2014779534996922.html)

**Kuwait**

**Kuwait police disperse rally demanding politician's release**

Police dispersed hundreds of protesters in Kuwait late on Sunday as they tried to march from the Grand Mosque to the main court complex to demand the release of prominent opposition politician Musallam al-Barrak. After warning the chanting protesters that they had failed to obtain a license for the march and that blocking the road would be illegal, the police fired smoke bombs to break up the gathering, a Reuters witness said. Kuwait said on Friday it would take all necessary measures against "any signs of disturbance and violence" after police scattered demonstrators the government said had thrown stones, burned car tyres and blocked roads the previous night.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140706203957-d7527/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140706203957-d7527/?source=search)

**Libya**

**Libya to announce elections results on July 20**

Libya will announce results of last month's parliamentary elections on July 20, the head of the elections commission said on Sunday, pushing back the results another week. Fewer than half of registered Libyans voted, reflecting disillusionment with the chaos prevailing since Gaddafi's overthrow. The government and outgoing parliament have failed to produce security and curb militias who helped oust Gaddafi but now defy state authority.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140706184523-pb335/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140706184523-pb335/?source=search)

**Morocco**

**Morocco says at least 20 injured in fighting between Migrants**

Fighting between African migrants in Morocco near the Spanish enclave of Melilla left at least 20 people injured on Sunday, local authorities said. The unrest broke out in Gourougou forest overlooking the enclave where migrants gather waiting for a chance to sneak into Melilla as a passage to Europe. The fighting between migrants from Mali and Cameroon left 20 people in need of hospital treatment, local authorities said, quoted by Morocco's MAP news agency. Melilla is one of two Spanish-held cities on the northern coast of Africa, along with Ceuta to the east. The number of Africans trying to cross into them has surged over recent months.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137712-morocco-says-at-least-20-injured-in-fighting-between-migrants**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137712-morocco-says-at-least-20-injured-in-fighting-between-migrants)

**Sudan**

**150 killed in clan battle near oil field**

A battle between rival Sudanese clans near an oil-drilling site killed 150 people and wounded 100 more, state-linked media reported on Thursday. The fighting in West Kordofan state between two sub-groups of the Misseriya tribe "continued all day because of a land dispute near the oil field," said Mohammed Omer Al-Ansari, a tribal leader. He was quoted by the Sudanese Media Centre, which is close to the security apparatus. The report did not say on which day the battle occurred, but it comes about one month after the same groups, the Zurug and Awlad Amran clans of the Misseriya, clashed in that area.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-03/262587-150-killed-in-sudan-clan-battle-near-oil-field-media.ashx#ixzz36USu8QTm**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-03/262587-150-killed-in-sudan-clan-battle-near-oil-field-media.ashx#ixzz36USu8QTm)

**18 more killed in Darfur tribal fighting**

Combat between two Arab tribes in Sudan's Darfur region has killed 18 people, a resident said Sunday, adding to a growing toll as various groups battle for resources and revenge. The latest incident occurred outside Ed Daein, the capital of East Darfur, said the resident who is a member of the local Rezeigat tribe.

"Yesterday the clash began when a Maaliya killed a Rezeigat. The Rezeigat gathered themselves for revenge but the Maaliya surrounded them and killed 18," he said, declining to be identified for security reasons.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/18-more-killed-darfur-tribal-fighting-resident-154602663.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/18-more-killed-darfur-tribal-fighting-resident-154602663.html)

**Syria**

**Aid access talks widen to full UNSC**

Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan circulated a draft resolution to the UNSC on Thursday that seeks to boost cross-border humanitarian access in Syria but it was not immediately clear if Russia and China would support the move. After more than a month of negotiations with the permanent members the draft text will now be discussed with the remaining elected members next week, diplomats said. The draft resolution threatens measures, such as sanctions, against any Syrian party who does not comply with the council's demands for the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the country.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140703214514-stn6b/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140703214514-stn6b/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Air raid kills four near Lebanese border town**

At least four people were killed and seven wounded in overnight air raids by Syrian forces on mountains and valleys near the Lebanese town of Arsal, security sources said on Friday, the latest spillover of violence into the border area. The five air raids struck close to Arsal, an area sympathetic to the mostly Sunni Muslim rebels fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who is from Syria's Alawite minority. Violence has regularly hit areas around Arsal. In January rocket fire from Syria killed at least seven people in the town and wounded 15.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140704080446-es8l7/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140704080446-es8l7/?source=search)

**ISIL expels thousands in east Syria**

ISIL has expelled more than 30,000 people from their homes in the eastern Syrian town of Shuheil, a monitoring group said on Sunday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said IS had “forced out” some 30,000 residents after seizing Shuheil on Thursday from Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front. Another 30,000 residents have been forced from their homes in the towns of Khosham and Tabia Jazeera, also in eastern Deir Ezzor province, the Britain-based NGO said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.livemint.com/Politics/L4CQf4e9xdmo3kTVces98I/Islamic-State-expels-thousands-in-east-Syria-NGO.html**](http://www.livemint.com/Politics/L4CQf4e9xdmo3kTVces98I/Islamic-State-expels-thousands-in-east-Syria-NGO.html)

**Yemen**

**Yemen army continues fight in north and is attacked in south**

Clashes in the north Yemen town of Omran continued on Sunday between the army and fighters from the Houthi movement after at least 104 people were killed on Saturday, while in the south six soldiers were shot dead by al Qaeda militants. The conflict between the government and Houthis, who demand more rights for the Shi'ite Zaydi sect in the majority Sunni country, has taken on an increasingly sectarian tone leading to fears of further unrest.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140706105000-15qyu/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140706105000-15qyu/?source=search)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Taliban set 200 fuel trucks on fire in Kabul**

A Taliban bomb attack on the outskirts of Kabul set fire to some 200 fuel trucks that the militants claimed were supplying foreign troops in Afghanistan, officials said Saturday. The tankers were set ablaze as they sat in a parking lot waiting to enter the Afghan. Kabul police director Gul Aghan Hashimi said a magnetic bomb had been used in the attack while a NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces spokesman said they were investigating whether the fuel was intended for foreign troops. The incident took place in Chawk-e Arghandi.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement that fighters belonging to the group had carried out the destruction. There were no casualties.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2014/07/05/43360**](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2014/07/05/43360)

**Afghan poll candidates feud on eve of results**

Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates clashed over alleged fraud ahead of the release of preliminary election results, setting the stage for further instability in the violence-hit country. Abdullah Abdullah demanded that the preliminary result, due out on Monday, be delayed for a comprehensive audit of suspicious votes, repeating that he would reject the outcome if his demands were not met. But Ashraf Ghani, who is reported to be at least one million votes ahead in the count, insisted that the result could not be delayed again and must be revealed by the Independent Election Committee. The preliminary result will include all votes from the June 14 run-off vote, with the official result scheduled for July 24 after a period for adjudication of complaints.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/afghan-poll-candidates-feud-eve-results-201476161336786308.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/afghan-poll-candidates-feud-eve-results-201476161336786308.html)

**Bangladesh**

**Bangladesh withdraw restrictive draft law on NGOs: HRW says**

The Bangladesh government has proposed a law that would impose draconian restrictions on already beleaguered nongovernmental organizations, Human Rights Watch said today. Bangladesh's donors should publicly express concerns about restrictions that are aimed at silencing government critics. The draft law is to be presented to the parliamentary standing committee for consideration. The Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, 2014, would regulate operations and funding for any group with foreign funding as well as Bangladesh offices of foreign and international organizations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140706193519-lmsyx/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140706193519-lmsyx/?source=search)

**Pakistan**

**Military operation displaces 572,529 in Pakistan**

Pakistani officials said Sunday that 572,529 people have been registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of major military operation launched against the militants in North Waziristan tribal region since June 15. A detailed status report, by all coordination and implementation organizations providing relief to the IDPs, has been submitted to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, said the IDPs belonged to 44,633 families.

**Xinhua-** [**http://www.china.org.cn/world/2014-07/06/content\_32873492.htm**](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2014-07/06/content_32873492.htm)

**Sri Lanka**

**UN decries reports Australia handing Tamil asylum seekers back to Sri Lanka**

The UN has expressed "profound concern" about Australia's handling of asylum seekers amid reports that scores of Sri Lankans will be handed over to their country's navy after only a brief assessment by Australian authorities. Two boats carrying more than 200 Tamil asylum seekers from Sri Lanka were intercepted by Australian border security forces in the Indian Ocean in recent days and either have been or will be transferred to the Sri Lankan navy, Australian media said. Australia's government has not confirmed any details of the incident and refuses to comment on what it calls operational matters regarding its "Operation Sovereign Borders" programme.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140704063442-l2ity/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140704063442-l2ity/?source=fiOtherNews3)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Alarming levels of malnutrition among refugee children and women from CAR – UNICEF mention**

In Cameroon, up to 1 out of 3 refugee children from CAR suffer from malnutrition, a recent UN assessment found. “Children who have survived the horror in CAR are now at risk of dying from malnutrition and its complications,” said Félicité Tchibindat, UNICEF Representative in Cameroon. “Death is stalking these children. It is alarming to see entire families undernourished – including older children and women.” Since December last year, more than 100,000 CAR refugees – over half are children – have entered Cameroon after walking and hiding in the bush for weeks, and at times for months. Among them, between 20 to 30% of children under five arrived suffering from malnutrition, a rate almost twice as high as the 15% considered ‘critical’ in most emergency situations. Some 1 out of 5 pregnant and lactating refugee mothers also arrived in Cameroon malnourished, which puts their babies at increased risk. At least 17% of children admitted into inpatients facilities suffering from malnutrition are over 5 years old.

**WFP -** [**http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/cameroon-alarming-levels-malnutrition-among-refugee-children-and-women-central-afr**](http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/cameroon-alarming-levels-malnutrition-among-refugee-children-and-women-central-afr)

**Authorities adopt common strategy to fight Ebola**

West African countries and international health organizations adopted a fresh strategy on Thursday to fight the world's deadliest Ebola epidemic, which has killed hundreds of people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. At a two-day meeting in Accra, officials committed to better surveillance to detect cases of the virus, enhance cross-border collaboration, better engagement with local communities and closer cooperation with WHO and other partners. Ministers also recommended setting up a sub-regional control centre in Guinea to coordinate technical support. The decisions involve governments, the UN, the US.Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aid agencies and the private sector.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140703213743-9brmf/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140703213743-9brmf/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Ebola epidemic 'likely to last months': UN**

WHO said on Thursday it expected the worst Ebola outbreak in history to continue its deadly rampage through West Africa for at least "several months". The highly-contagious tropical bug has infected hundreds of people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with the latest WHO figures showing that confirmed or suspected cases had left 467 people dead and experts fearing it could spread throughout the region.

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24384121/w-african-ebola-epidemic-likely-to-last-months-says-un/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24384121/w-african-ebola-epidemic-likely-to-last-months-says-un/)

**Nigeria**

**Suicide bomber kills five outside northeast mosque**

A suicide bomber targeting worshippers at a mosque in a remote village in northeast Nigeria killed five people and wounded dozens, a security source said on Saturday, in an area where Islamist insurgents are mounting attacks almost daily. The source, who declined to be named, said Muslims in the village of Konduga were observing Friday prayers when the pick-up truck approached. A local vigilante group stopped the truck to inspect it and the bomber then detonated the bomb a few metres away from the mosque, he said. Witness Mohammadu Sheriff said he had seen the vigilantes conducting checks on a pick-up van carrying firewood.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/nigeriaNews/idAFL6N0PG0M420140705**](http://af.reuters.com/article/nigeriaNews/idAFL6N0PG0M420140705)

**Senegal**

**Presidential aide named Senegal's new PM**

A close aide to Senegal's president, has been named the country's new prime minister, two days after the resignation of his predecessor Aminata Toure. Mohamed Dionne, 54, will be the third prime minister serving under President Macky Sall, after Toure and former banker Abdoul Mbaye. His appointment was confirmed by a presidential decree read on state RTS radio and television on Sunday. Dionne has worked for the UN Industrial Development Organisation, which is mandated to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition. Since March, he had served as adviser to the president with the rank of minister tasked with overseeing an economic and social development plan.

**Al Jazeera-** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/presidential-aide-named-senegal-new-pm-20147714231726490.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/presidential-aide-named-senegal-new-pm-20147714231726490.html)

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