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GENERAL

**How deadly Ebola can spread**

For scientists tracking the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa, it is not about complex virology and genotyping, but about how contagious microbes - like humans - use planes, bikes and taxis to spread. So far, authorities have taken no action to limit international travel in the region. The airlines association IATA said on Thursday that WHO is not recommending any such restrictions or frontier closures. The risk of the virus moving to other continents is low, disease specialists say. But tracing every person who may have had contact with an infected case is vital to getting on top of the outbreak within West Africa.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140731101520-4q1gc/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140731101520-4q1gc/?source=leadCarousel)

**Ebola fears nix Sierra Leone troop trip to Somalia**

A military spokesman for the AU mission in Somalia says the AU has canceled a planned troop rotation by Sierra Leonean forces because of the Ebola outbreak. Col. Ali Aden Houmed said late Thursday that the AU decided to halt the deployment of a new battalion in an effort to prevent the disease from crossing into Somalia.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ebola-fears-nix-sierra-leone-troop-trip-somalia-24801887**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ebola-fears-nix-sierra-leone-troop-trip-somalia-24801887)

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Food supplies cut to rebel stronghold in east**

Food supplies have been cut to the rebel stronghold of Luhansk in eastern Ukraine during a military offensive on the city by government forces, local officials said on Thursday. The army says it has almost completely encircled Luhansk but has opened a humanitarian corridor to allow people to flee the city. It says it is not firing on residential areas although three people were reported killed in overnight shelling. "Chains of large supermarkets, food shops and markets work intermittently. Food deliveries to the city have stopped, supplies are decreasing every day. Shops only offer products from their stocks," the city authorities said in a statement on their website.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140731092742-iba0h/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140731092742-iba0h/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Army suffers losses in attack by separatists**

Ukrainian television said on Friday up to 20 servicemen had been killed in an attack by pro-Russian separatists in east Ukraine during the night, but a military source said the death toll was likely to be lower. Military officials said a paratrooper unit had come under mortar and tank fire near the town of Shakhtarsk, the number of casualties was being checked.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140801060735-8skuj**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140801060735-8skuj)

EAP

**China**

**Authorities say Islamist militants kill pro-Beijing imam in Xinjiang**

Three suspected Islamist militants armed with knives and axes killed the imam of China's biggest mosque in the western region of Xinjiang on Wednesday, the authorities said, days after a knife-wielding gang attacked state buildings in the same region. All three attackers, who were named by the government, had ethnic Uighur names and the imam, Juma Tayir, was a well-known pro-government Uighur who led prayers at the Id Kah Mosque in the old Silk Road city of Kashgar.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-china-xinjiang-idUSKBN0G020V20140731**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-china-xinjiang-idUSKBN0G020V20140731)

**Philippines**

**Nine months on, plans $3.9-bln effort to relocate typhoon Haiyan victims**

The Philippines will spend 170 billion pesos ($3.89 billion) to rehouse some 200,000 families displaced by last year's super typhoon Haiyan that killed 6,100 people, the government said in a masterplan released on Friday. It has taken a startling nine months to hammer out the plan because crippling bureaucracy entailed lengthy vetting, say government consultants, and sparse technical data on geological hazards and land use plans held up relocation decisions. Thousands of displaced families remain in makeshift tents or substandard temporary shelter areas, but all-out reconstruction will begin soon after President Benigno Aquino approves the plan, although it is not clear when this will happen.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140801110846-2mn7c/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140801110846-2mn7c/?source=fiOtherNews2)

ESA

**Somalia**

**Lawmaker shot dead in Mogadishu, fifth this year**

Somalia's al-Shebaab said they had assassinated a lawmaker in Mogadishu as he left prayers at a mosque on Friday, the fifth MP killed this year in a string of attacks. "This was a legitimate target, and he was killed on the orders of Allah," Shebab spokesman Abdiaziz Abu Musab said, adding that the Al-Qaeda-linked insurgents were "preparing to kill all the other MPs". Gunmen opened fire from a car in a drive-by shooting in the centre of the city before racing off, witnesses said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2014/08/01/somali-lawmaker-shot-dead-in-mogadishu-fifth-this-year**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2014/08/01/somali-lawmaker-shot-dead-in-mogadishu-fifth-this-year)

**South Sudan**

**Famine looms, aid cash for seeds runs out**

FAO appealed for $66 million for South Sudan on Thursday, saying it needed to provide seeds, vaccines and equipment to two million people to head off the rising risk of famine. “Resources have now run out,” FAO said in a statement. Conflict between the government and rebels has driven more than 1.1 million people – more than half of them children – from their homes in South Sudan. Four million people - more than a third of the population - are facing emergency levels of food insecurity.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140731135941-cy36o/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140731135941-cy36o/?source=leadCarousel)

**UK minister calls for immediate ceasefire**

South Sudan risks facing famine unless its conflicting parties adopt immediate ceasefire for lasting peace, the United Kingdom minister for Africa warned on Thursday. Mark Simmonds, in a statement issued ahead of the planned restart of South Sudan’s peace talks in Ethiopia, called on all parties to the talks to negotiate in good faith, stressing the terrible humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict the country’s leaders fail to reach a compromise.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51865**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51865)

**Red Cross implements measures to prevent the spread of cholera in Torit**

The Government of South Sudan declared a cholera outbreak in Juba in mid-May 2014. Despite the decline in cholera cases in Juba where the first cases of cholera were reported, the disease continues to spread to other states including Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile. Most new cases are being reported in Torit, Eastern Equatoria, 150km east of Juba and close to South Sudan’s border with Uganda.

**IFRC -** [**http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/africa/south-sudan/south-sudan-red-cross-implements-measures-to-prevent-the-spread-of-cholera-in-torit-66551/**](http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/africa/south-sudan/south-sudan-red-cross-implements-measures-to-prevent-the-spread-of-cholera-in-torit-66551/)

LAC

**Guatemala**

**Court ruling attacks Guatemala for failure to tackle crimes against women**

A landmark ruling handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights this week put the spotlight on the high level of violence against women in Guatemala, a country with one of the highest femicide rates in the world. Hundreds of women are killed in Guatemala every year. Many victims of femicide - the murder of a woman by a man because of her gender - show signs of torture, rape and mutilation. Last year, 522 women were killed in Guatemala, according to government figures.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140731163500-tfad3/?source=reHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140731163500-tfad3/?source=reHeadlineStory)

MENA

**Algeria**

**Capital hit by 5.5 quake, no reports of damage**

A magnitude 5.5 earthquake hit southeast of the Algerian capital on Friday, shaking buildings and sending panicked families rushing into the streets of Algiers and nearby towns, witnesses and officials said. USGS said the quake had struck 14km southeast of Algiers and its epicentre was recorded at a relatively shallow depth of 6.2 miles. There were no immediate reports of damage, according to Algerian state television. An emergency services spokesman said five people had been injured during a panicked rush to get out of buildings.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/01/us-algeria-earthquake-idUSKBN0G13C420140801?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/01/us-algeria-earthquake-idUSKBN0G13C420140801?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews)

**Iraq**

**Iraqi Kurds, battling Islamist threat, press Washington for arms**

The semi-autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq is pressing the Obama administration for sophisticated weapons it says Kurdish fighters need to push back Islamist militants threatening their region, Kurdish and US officials said. A Kurdish official said the request was discussed during a Kurdish delegation's visit to Washington in early July, and US officials said Washington was considering ways to bolster the Kurdish defenses.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140731214630-64zqs**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140731214630-64zqs)

**Libya**

**Heavy shelling, clashes spread in Tripoli**

Clashes with artillery and rockets spread on Thursday into two Tripoli districts, where rival militia brigades were battling over the airport in Libya's worst fighting since the 2011 revolt that ousted Muammar Gaddafi. Nearly 200 people have been killed since the violence erupted two weeks ago in Tripoli and also in the eastern city of Benghazi, where a coalition of Islamist militants and former rebels has overrun a major army base in the city.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0G018D20140731**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0G018D20140731)

**EU evacuates staff to Tunisia**

The [European Union](javascript:void(0)) said Thursday that it had moved its staff in [Libya](javascript:void(0)) to [Tunisia](javascript:void(0)) in light of the deteriorating security situation. They would return to [Tripoli](javascript:void(0)) "as soon as conditions allow," a spokesman for the EU's external affairs arm said. The EU again called for an end to the violence in Libya, where fighting between rival militias for control of key installations has claimed scores of lives in the past two weeks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-31/265644-eu-evacuates-libya-staff-to-tunisia.ashx#axzz398ap5t3P**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-31/265644-eu-evacuates-libya-staff-to-tunisia.ashx#axzz398ap5t3P)

**State of Palestine**

**Israel calls off Gaza truce, fearing soldier abducted**

Israel declared an end to a three-day Gaza truce only hours after it began Friday, saying it fears one of its soldiers was captured, jeopardising world efforts for a durable ceasefire. Intensive shelling killed dozens of people in southern Gaza hours into the short-lived truce, with Hamas accusing Israel of breaking the ceasefire and Israel saying it was responding to rocket fire.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/israel-calls-off-gaza/1292586.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/israel-calls-off-gaza/1292586.html)

**Joint Palestinian team still headed for Cairo: Abbas**

A joint Palestinian delegation, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, is to travel to Cairo on Saturday for ceasefire talks despite the renewed fighting in Gaza, president Mahmud Abbas's office announced. "Abbas has formed the delegation, which will head Saturday for Cairo whatever the circumstances," his office said in a statement, giving the names of the 12-member delegation. They included Abbas aide Azzam al-Ahmed, Palestinian Authority security head Majed Faraj, several senior Hamas officials including Mussa Abu Marzuq, and a leading member of Islamic Jihad, Ziad al-Nakhale. The statement said they would discuss with Egyptian officials the "next steps" in trying to reach a ceasefire in Gaza.

**AFP -** [**http://www.centnews.com/Politics/Joint-Palestinian-team-still-headed-for-Cairo-Abbas/S-2014-08-01/81448.html**](http://www.centnews.com/Politics/Joint-Palestinian-team-still-headed-for-Cairo-Abbas/S-2014-08-01/81448.html)

**Israel may be required to help displaced Gaza Palestinians: UN envoy**

Israel will be required under international law to take responsibility for helping Palestinian civilians if there are any further large-scale displacements from the fighting in Gaza, a top UN envoy told the UNSC. The UN is struggling to cope with a flood of some 220,000 Palestinian civilians into shelters. They have come under fire during three weeks of fighting between Israel and Islamist Hamas militants who dominate Gaza. Pierre Krähenbühl, the chief of UNRWA, said the impoverished enclave of 1.8 million Palestinians was facing a precipice, and added that he was alarmed to hear that Israel had warned more neighborhoods in Gaza to evacuate ahead of military action.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-mideast-gaza-un-council-idUSKBN0G029C20140731**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-mideast-gaza-un-council-idUSKBN0G029C20140731)

**Syria**

**UN notes difficulties in humanitarian aid delivery**

The UN noted larger difficulties in the delivery of humanitarian aid to Syria explaining this fact with procedure regulations in Syrian government as well as armed opposition actions. The relief delivery to hard-to-reach Syrian regions over hostilities has particularly complicated in July despite the UNSC resolution which should simplify cargo delivery across the border, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos said.

**ITAR-TASS -** [**http://en.itar-tass.com/world/743014**](http://en.itar-tass.com/world/743014)

**Islamic State imposes media controls in Syrian province**

The Islamic State which has seized parts of Syria and Iraq, has told activists in Syria's Deir al-Zor province they must swear allegiance to it and submit to censorship, a monitoring group said on Friday. The militant group imposed the rules after a meeting on Tuesday with activists involved in media work, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. International media organisations have little presence in Syria and rely on activists and other sources to provide information on what is happening in the country.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140801102006-ogh4l**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140801102006-ogh4l)

**Uganda**

**Court annuls anti-homosexuality law**

Uganda's Constitutional Court has annulled tough anti-gay legislation signed into law in February. It ruled that the bill was passed by MPs in December without the requisite quorum and was therefore illegal. Homosexual acts were already illegal, but the new law allowed for life imprisonment for "aggravated homosexuality" and banned the "promotion of homosexuality". Several donors have cut aid to Uganda since the law was adopted.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28605400**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28605400)

SA

**Afghanistan**

[**Unknown gunmen kills mayor in Logar**](http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/15783--unknown-gunmen-kills-mayor-in-logar)

Unknown gunmen killed Saifullah, the mayor of Mohamad Agha district of central Logar province on Thursday night after an hour clash at his home, said local officials. "Saifullah was hit by a bullet in the shooting and died later," Darwish said. No other family members and his bodyguards were hurt in the attack." The gunmen escaped after the shooting, he said.

**Tolo News -** [**http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/15783--unknown-gunmen-kills-mayor-in-logar**](http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/15783--unknown-gunmen-kills-mayor-in-logar)

**India**

**Malnutrition deaths in tea gardens highlight worker abuses**

More than 100 tea workers in eastern India have died due to malnutrition-related diseases, activists say, highlighting the persistent poverty and exploitation of tens of thousands of Indians working in the country's tea plantations. According to a study conducted by the United Tea Workers Front (UTWF) in the Dooars region of West Bengal, the number of deaths of workers aged between 20 and 40 years old this year has shot up compared with one or two in previous years. "The fact is there are more than 100 deaths this year owing to closure of at least five tea gardens and abject poverty," said UTWF convenor Anuradha Talwar, who headed the study which was ordered by the Supreme Court.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140801120753-lmv68/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140801120753-lmv68/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Mudslide swallows village; death toll rises to 51**

Heavy rains hampered efforts Friday by hundreds of rescue workers digging through heavy mud and debris, as the death toll from a landslide that engulfed an entire village in western India rose to 51. Rescuers are still looking for about 100 people missing and feared dead, after another 10 bodies were pulled out of the debris overnight. Authorities said the chances of survival were slim for anyone still trapped under the mud in Malin, a village of about 700 people in Pune district of Maharashtra state. The bodies of 22 women, 23 men and six children have been recovered so far.

**Canadian Press -** [**http://globalnews.ca/news/1484137/mudslide-swallows-indian-village-at-least-30-dead/**](http://globalnews.ca/news/1484137/mudslide-swallows-indian-village-at-least-30-dead/)

**Pakistan**

**Widows, "second" wives flee fighting but are denied aid**

Thousands of women displaced by fighting in Pakistan are struggling to get food and other aid because they lack identity cards and conservative Muslim elders have forbidden them from going to distribution centres. The women are among nearly a million people who registered for aid after the army began an offensive against the Pakistani Taliban in North Waziristan, a mountainous region on the Afghan border.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140801082723-r6dcg/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140801082723-r6dcg/?source=fiOtherNews3)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**WHO and regional governments announce $100 million Ebola response plan**

WHO and the presidents of the three countries most affected by Ebola announced on Thursday it is launching a $100 million response plan to fight the viral outbreak that’s claimed over 700 lives since March. The Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response Plan in West Africa calls for “several hundred more personnel” to be deployed in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea where 729 people have been killed and 1323 infected with Ebola.

**IBT -** [**http://www.ibtimes.com/who-regional-governments-announce-100-million-ebola-response-plan-1645086**](http://www.ibtimes.com/who-regional-governments-announce-100-million-ebola-response-plan-1645086)

**Guinea expert: Liberia, Sierra Leone moves may worsen Ebola spread**

The leader of Guinea's Ebola task force said on Friday that moves by neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone to contain the disease that has killed 729 people this year - its deadliest outbreak - may have the opposite effect. Liberia has put in place measures including closing all schools and some government departments as well as possibly quarantining affected communities. Sierra Leone declared a state of emergency and called in troops to isolate Ebola victims. "Currently, some measures taken by our neighbours could make the fight against Ebola even harder," Aboubacar Sidiki Diakiti said. "When children are not supervised, they can go anywhere and make the problem worse. It is part of what we will be talking about," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140801120319-lylk2/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140801120319-lylk2/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Rising Ebola cases strain health workers**

A shortage of trained health workers in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea who can treat Ebola victims and prevent further spread of the deadly disease is hampering response efforts, say Health Ministry and NGO staff, who say their efforts are at “breaking point”. MSF has deployed 300 health workers, 80 of them expatriate staff, to work on the Ebola response. “It’s a huge programme but human resources are very challenging: staff must be highly trained and they have to be turned over every 4-6 weeks due to stress and fatigue,” said Doyone.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100426/agencies-fighting-ebola-reach-breaking-point**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100426/agencies-fighting-ebola-reach-breaking-point)

**Nigeria**

**Authorities isolate 2 Ebola suspects, monitors 69 others**

Nigeria quarantined two people suspected of being infected with the Ebola virus and placed 69 others under surveillance, local newspaper Punch reported Friday. The 71 people had come into contact with Liberian government consultant, who died of Ebola earlier this week in a Lagos hospital, said the Health Minister.

[**http://dalje.com/en-world/nigeria-isolates-2-ebola-suspects-monitors-69-others/516819**](http://dalje.com/en-world/nigeria-isolates-2-ebola-suspects-monitors-69-others/516819)

**Gambia**

**UNDP says poverty 'remains high' in rural areas**

In spite of the progress made by The Gambia, poverty rate is 39.6% and remains particularly high in rural areas largely due to the vulnerability of agricultural income, according to UNDP Resident Coordinator, Ms. Ade Mamonyane Lekoetje. She commended the government’s "bold efforts" to develop a comprehensive social protection policy, which was validated on 9 July 2014, to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

**African Manager -** [**http://www.africanmanager.com/site\_eng/detail\_article.php?art\_id=22357**](http://www.africanmanager.com/site_eng/detail_article.php?art_id=22357)

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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