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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**'Billions' on table at Africa summit in US**

The United States will announce nearly $1bn in business deals, increase funding for peacekeeping and commit billions of dollars to expanding food and power programs in Africa during a summit this week, officials said. US officials said the August 4-6 summit in Washington of nearly 50 African leaders hopes to showcase US interest in the continent through a series of government-private partnership deals to boost trade and investment. Rajiv Shah, the administrator of USAID, said there will be new support for Power Africa, a privately funded program launched by President Barack Obama last year to install 10,000 megawatts of new generation capacity and connect 20 million new customers across Africa by 2018.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/table-at-africa-summit-us-2014832209299750.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/table-at-africa-summit-us-2014832209299750.html)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh reignite fears between Armenia, Azerbaijan**

The deadliest fighting in the region in 20 years has led to the deaths of 15 people over the last few days. The clashes have underlined the risk of broader conflict in the South Caucasus, where vital oil and natural gas flow from the Caspian region to Europe. Russia, an ally of Armenia, issued a statement on Saturday warning against further escalation, raising fears among some that it may get involved in the conflict.

**Al Jazeera - <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/8/2/armenia-azerbaijanclashes.html>**

**OSCE, EU voices concern over Armenian-Azerbaijani border**

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister, together with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, expressed their deep concern about the intense upsurge in violence along the Line of Contact and Armenian-Azerbaijani border that resulted in numerous casualties reported in recent days. The Chairperson-in-Office and the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group said that they were deeply concerned about the fact that a clearly marked ICRC vehicle came under fire. The EU on 3 August expressed concern by the latest incidents along the Line of Contact and the Armenian-Azerbaijani borders in recent days.

**OSCE -** [**http://www.osce.org/cio/122190**](http://www.osce.org/cio/122190)

**Kuna - <http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2390419&language=en>**

**Ukraine**

**Lugansk on verge of 'humanitarian catastrophe'**

The insurgent stronghold of Lugansk in eastern Ukraine is on the verge a humanitarian catastrophe, the mayor warned Saturday, as a siege by government troops has seen water, electricity and food supplies cut off. The hub of some 420,000 people, the second largest rebel-controlled city after Donetsk, has seen almost daily shelling claim the lives of scores of civilians as Ukraine's military tightens its grip on pro-Russian fighters hunkering down there.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/141594-ukraine-rebel-city-on-verge-of-humanitarian-catastrophe**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/141594-ukraine-rebel-city-on-verge-of-humanitarian-catastrophe)

**Rebel adviser 'admits executions'**

A senior adviser to rebels in eastern Ukraine has confirmed that extrajudicial killings have been carried out "to prevent chaos". Igor Druz told said such "executions" sent an important signal to the rest of the rebel forces. More than 1,500 people are believed to have been killed in the conflict which erupted in east Ukraine in April, after rebels declared independence from the new government in Kiev.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28619599**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28619599)

EAP

**China**

**Strong quake kills at least 367 in southern Yunnan province**

A strong earthquake in southern China's Yunnan province toppled thousands of homes on Sunday, killing at least 367 people and injuring more than 1,800. About 12,000 homes collapsed in Ludian, a densely populated county located around 366km northeast of Yunnan's capital, Kunming. The magnitude-6.1 quake struck at 4:30 p.m. at a depth of 10km according to USGS. Its epicenter was in Longtoushan township, 23km southwest of the city of Zhaotong. A statement said the UN is ready to "lend its assistance to efforts to respond to humanitarian needs" and "to mobilize any international support needed."

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/strong-quake-hits-sw-chinas-yunnan-province-24823707**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/strong-quake-hits-sw-chinas-yunnan-province-24823707)

**96 killed last week in Xinjiang**

Chinese state media released a detailed casualty count Sunday for last week's violence in the western province of Xinjiang, with 37 people and 59 attackers killed in the deadliest unrest in months that authorities blame on ethnic separatists. Xinhua News Agency, which had previously said only dozens were killed, reported that attackers armed with knives and axes stormed a police station and government offices in Elixku township last Monday and then moved onto nearby Huangdi township. The agency said 13 people were injured and 215 attackers arrested, and that the dead civilians included 35 Han ethnic majority members and two Uighurs.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/china-96-killed-last-week-xinjiang-015754183.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/china-96-killed-last-week-xinjiang-015754183.html)

**Myanmar**

**Shan village abandoned for fear of army reprisals**

Residents of a Shan village in Namkham Township, northern Shan State, have fled their homes after reports that Myanmar Army harshly interrogated several villagers about the recent assassination of two military officers on a nearby road, local sources said on Friday. Sai Aom Mong, a Namkham resident, told The Irrawaddy that he had heard that Noung Madar village was abandoned on Thursday. “The village has about 120 houses and about 400 people fled from the village,” he said. “They told me that they have to flee from their village as security forces threatened their lives. Almost all people in the village fled, including five community leaders who were detained briefly for interrogation and beaten by the army.”

**Irrawaddy -** [**http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/shan-village-abandoned-fear-burma-army-reprisals.html**](http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/shan-village-abandoned-fear-burma-army-reprisals.html)

ESA

**Somalia**

**Roadside bomb kills three women, wounds seven in capital**

Three women were killed in Mogadishu on Sunday, and seven others were wounded when a remotely detonated bomb exploded in a busy market, police and witnesses said. The women killed in the blast were city workers, who were cleaning the streets when a bomb hidden in a rubbish pit exploded in the busy market sector known as Hodan district of Mogadishu, police said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140803071015-im8wb/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140803071015-im8wb/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**South Sudan**

**Over 40,000 people displaced as fresh flooding hits Unity State**

Fresh flooding has displaced 42,000 people over the past week in Unity state's Mayom county after the region was hit by heavy rainfall. Wangkei, Riak and Wichok payams (districts) are among the worst-affected areas. Rebel officials in the area told Sudan Tribune that many areas had been inundated by flood waters, saying the situation was threatening the lives of thousands of people. Unity state experiences reoccurring flooding, particularly during the rainy season when the White Nile often overflows in low-lying areas.

**Talk of Sudan -** [**http://talkofsudan.com/over-40000-people-displaced-as-fresh-flooding-hits-unity-state/**](http://talkofsudan.com/over-40000-people-displaced-as-fresh-flooding-hits-unity-state/)

**Over 200,000 displaced return home: UN**

At least 227,000 people displaced by conflict in South Sudan’s Unity, Jonglei and Western Equatoria states have returned to their homes, OCHA said. OCHA said “severe flooding” was facing IDPs at the UN base in Unity state capital Bentiu. OCHA said the situation in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states “remained tense” with shootings reported in Nasir, a strategic town bordering Ethiopia.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51893**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51893)

**Swaziland**

**Poor sanitation, poverty behind diarrhoea outbreak**

A nationwide outbreak of diarrhoea attributed to rotavirus has claimed the lives of nearly 40 young children in Swaziland during the past month and highlighted the need for better sanitation and clean water in schools and homes. At a press conference attended by most of the Cabinet on 30 July, PM Sibusiso Dlamini said 3,042 cases had been recorded in the four regions of the country. He also announced that WHO had sent a team to provide the government with technical assistance on controlling the outbreak.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100430/poor-sanitation-poverty-behind-swazi-diarrhoea-outbreak**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100430/poor-sanitation-poverty-behind-swazi-diarrhoea-outbreak)

**Uganda**

**UN chief applauds court for scrapping anti-gay law**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon applauded Uganda's constitutional court Friday after it quashed anti-gay legislation, describing the decision as a "step forward" and a "victory for the rule of law." But Ban stressed that more should be done in Uganda to decriminalize same-sex relationships and fight discrimination against lesbians, gays and transgender persons. The top court nullified legislation signed by long-serving President Yoweri Museveni that made homosexuality a crime punishable by life in prison, citing a lack of quorum of lawmakers for its adoption.

**AFP -** [**http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/08/un-chief-applauds-uganda-court-scrapping-anti-gay-law/**](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/08/un-chief-applauds-uganda-court-scrapping-anti-gay-law/)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Tropical storm Bertha strengthens as it moves away from the Bahamas**

Tropical Storm Bertha, the second named storm of the 2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season, is strengthening quickly as it moves away from the Bahamas, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said on Monday. The storm was located about 190 miles east of the Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas, with maximum sustained winds of 65 miles per hour (100 kph), the Miami-based weather forecasters said. There are no coastal watches or warnings in effect, but additional strengthening is expected during the next 48 hours.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-storm-bertha-nhc-idUSKBN0G405W20140804**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-storm-bertha-nhc-idUSKBN0G405W20140804)

**UN concerned by US plans for child migrants**

Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, expressed concern at what she said were plans by the US government to deport tens of thousands of unaccompanied children who entered the US in recent months. Around 57,000 children from Central America were detained at the US-Mexico border after crossing the frontier without their parents in the nine months to June. Faced with a delicate and divisive political issue, President Barack Obama's administration has said most will be sent home as they would not qualify for asylum or refugee status.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-usa-immigration-un-idUSKBN0G01VB20140731**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-usa-immigration-un-idUSKBN0G01VB20140731)

**Colombia**

**Girl dies in western region bombing**

A girl was killed and three other members of her family were wounded in a grenade attack attributed to FARC guerrillas in western Colombia, officials said. Suspected FARC rebels launched two home-made grenades in the town of Miranda, hitting a house where the victim, a two-year-old girl was asleep with her parents and brother, authorities said. The General said FARC fighters were aiming at a military base 400 meters from the victims' home. The attack came just days after the Colombian President warned that such assaults could jeopardize the government's peace talks with the rebels.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140731/girl-dies-western-colombia-bombing-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140731/girl-dies-western-colombia-bombing-0)

**Mexico**

**Mexico rescues 70 kidnapped Central American migrants**

Mexican security forces rescued 70 Central American migrants, including children, who were being held captive in a house in the northern border state of Tamaulipas, authorities said. The migrants, most of whom were from Honduras and El Salvador, were found in Madero, about 500 km from the US border, a statement from the government of Tamaulipas state said. Last month Mexican state police rescued 165 migrants who had also been kidnapped in Tamaulipas.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/02/us-mexico-migrants-idUSKBN0G202B20140802**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/02/us-mexico-migrants-idUSKBN0G202B20140802)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Tunisia closes borders with Libya after violence**

Tunisia closed its main border crossing with Libya on Friday after thousands of stranded Egyptian and foreign nationals, fleeing militias' fighting and violence in Libya, tried to break through the passage, the Tunisian news agency said. It was the second eruption of unrest at the border in as many days, as thousands of Libyans stream into neighboring Tunisia, along with foreign nationals. Tunisia is the only escape route as fighting escalates in the Libyan capital.

**AP - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/libya-islamic-militias-declare-control-benghazi-24790261>**

**Algeria**

**6 dead following earthquake**

Algerian officials say six people are dead and 420 injured following an earthquake that shook Algiers Friday morning. Algeria's health ministry says four of the victims died after jumping from windows in panic. Authorities say two more people died of heart attacks during the quake, which measured 5.6 on the Richter scale. Most of the injured were treated and released, but 21 remained hospitalized. The earthquake happened at 0411 GMT and its epicenter was reported 19km northeast of Bologhine, a town north of the capital.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dead-earthquake-algeria-24804481**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dead-earthquake-algeria-24804481)

**Iraq**

**IS takeover of town sparks 'humanitarian tragedy': UN**

The capture of the Iraqi town of Sinjar by jihadist fighters has sent up to 200,000 people into flight and sparked a "humanitarian tragedy" amid fears for their lives, the UN said Sunday. "A humanitarian tragedy is unfolding in Sinjar," the top UN envoy in Iraq, Nickolay Mladenov, said in a statement after the IS group captured the northern town, which lies near the Syrian border and was already home to thousands of previously displaced families. It said it was particularly alarmed by the fate of those civilians who fled in the Jabal Sinjar mountains and could be trapped in an area completely surrounded by jihadist fighters.

**AFP –** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-03/265910-jihadist-takeover-of-iraq-town-sparks-humanitarian-tragedy-un.ashx#axzz39FdILpbV**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-03/265910-jihadist-takeover-of-iraq-town-sparks-humanitarian-tragedy-un.ashx#axzz39FdILpbV)

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/03/uk-iraq-security-idUKKBN0G305X20140803**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/03/uk-iraq-security-idUKKBN0G305X20140803)

**Jordan**

**Suspect arrested for ‘attacking MPs’ with explosive in Maan**

Police on Sunday arrested a suspect who allegedly attempted “to assassinate” MPs including Lower House Speaker Atef Tarawneh who were in the southern city of Maan to mediate between authorities and the residents there after several months of tensions, MP Khalil Attiyeh said. The town of around 80,000, some 220km south of Amman, has seen acts of violence by outlaws and a police hunt for them, with some local community leaders accusing authorities of using excessive force in the process.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/suspect-arrested-for-attacking-mps-with-explosive-in-maan**](http://jordantimes.com/suspect-arrested-for-attacking-mps-with-explosive-in-maan)

**Lebanon**

**Army tries to expel Syria-linked militants from border town**

Lebanese soldiers traded fire with extremist gunmen and shelled areas around the border town of Arsal on 3 August. Security officials said 13 Lebanese soldiers had died in the fighting, which erupted after the militants seized a police station following the arrest of one of their leaders on 2 August. Security officials say the gunmen in Arsal include fighters linked to the Islamic State and Syria's al Qaeda branch, the Nusra Front. More than a dozen members of Lebanon's security forces were taken captive, while some 15 soldiers are also missing, security sources said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/03/us-lebanon-security-arsal-idUSKBN0G30E220140803**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/03/us-lebanon-security-arsal-idUSKBN0G30E220140803)

**Libya**

**Clashes in capital kill 22, wound 72; gov’t warns of worsening humanitarian situation**

Clashes between rival militias in Tripoli have killed at least 22 people and wounded 72, the Libyan government said on Sunday, warning of a "worsening humanitarian situation" in the capital. The latest fighting, which broke out on Saturday, takes the death toll in Tripoli to 124 since 13 July, with more than 500 wounded. The transitional government said "several hundred" families had been displaced and there was a "worsening humanitarian situation" in Tripoli, where petrol and bottled gas are scarce along with food supplies.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2014/08/03/48407**](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2014/08/03/48407)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Nearly 300 Palestinian children killed in Gaza: UNICEF**

At least 296 Palestinian children and adolescents have been killed since Israel launched its offensive in the Gaza Strip against Hamas on 8 July, the UN said on Saturday. "Children make up for 30% of the civilian casualties," said UNICEF, adding that the toll was based on deaths which it was able to verify and was likely to rise. The toll breaks down to 187 boys and 109 girls, with at least 203 of them under the age of 12. More than 1,650 Palestinians in the Gaza enclave have been killed since Israel launched Operation Protective Edge last month, aimed at halting militant rocket fire.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140802/nearly-300-palestinian-children-killed-gaza**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140802/nearly-300-palestinian-children-killed-gaza)

**UN warns of 'rapidly unfolding' health disaster in Gaza**

Weeks of intense fighting has left medical services and facilities in the Gaza Strip “on the verge of collapse,” according to senior United Nations officials in the region who today warned that a health disaster of widespread proportions is rapidly unfolding as the conflict grinds on. “We are now looking at a health and humanitarian disaster”, [warned](file:///C:\\Users\\UN%20News\\Downloads\\Press_Release_UN_warns_of_imminent_health_disaster_in_Gaza.pdf) James W. Rawley, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the occupied Palestinian territory, adding: “The fighting must stop immediately.”

**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48395#.U94AyK3D\_Gg**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48395#.U94AyK3D_Gg)

**IDF kills 10 in UNRWA school**

At least 10 people were killed Sunday in a fresh strike on a UN school in southern Gaza which was sheltering Palestinians displaced by a brutal Israeli military offensive, medics said. Renewed Israeli shelling killed more than 30 people in Gaza on Sunday after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to keep up pressure on Hamas even after the army destroys Gaza’s tunnel network. Chris Gunness, spokesman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said the school had been housing thousands of IDPs who had been forced to flee their homes by the ongoing violence in Gaza.

**AFP -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/israel-kills-10-unrwa-school-netanyahu-vows-press-gaza-offensive**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/israel-kills-10-unrwa-school-netanyahu-vows-press-gaza-offensive)

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48396#.U97mfWjD\_ct**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48396#.U97mfWjD_ct)

**Sudan**

**Floods wipe out thousands of homes**

Fourteen people were killed in various Sudanese states, mostly in the capital Khartoum, due to heavy rains and floods, which hit the country during the past two weeks. More than 3,000 homes have been destroyed by floods that hit almost half of Sudan's states, official media has said. At least 184 people were injured and 6,100 families were displaced, many of whom were from the Nile and North Kordofah states, the SUNA news agency reported on Saturday.

**Al Jazeera - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/sudan-floods-wipe-off-thousands-homes-201482124950116221.html>**

**Sudan Tribune - <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51878>**

**Radical group vows to punish religious, security figures**

A radical Sudanese group calling itself the “Hamza Group for Preaching and Jihad” issued a statement on Saturday vowing to target media and religious figures, along with officers at the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). The group did not name the three NISS officers but said that they are ones who specialized in targeting Jihadist groups namely the Dandar extremist cell which was apprehended in late 2012 following a bloody clash with authorities.

**Sudan Tribune - <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51898>**

SA

**Across SA**

**More than 400,000 Indians face risk of flooding after Nepal landslide**

More than 400,000 people in eastern India face the risk of flooding after a landslide that killed at least nine people in neighbouring Nepal, an Indian government official said on Sunday, as thousands were being evacuated. The landslide triggered by heavy rains has left scores of people missing and has created a mud dam blocking the Sunkoshi river, which runs into India's Bihar state as the Kosi river.

The fear is that as Nepal tries to blast its way through the landslide to clear it, it will unleash a torrent of water across densely populated Bihar. Around 425,000 people could be affected by the floods and authorities have already evacuated 44,000 across seven districts of Bihar, said an officer at the state's disaster management unit.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL4N0Q907Z20140803**](http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL4N0Q907Z20140803)

**UN says Sri Lanka illegally returning Pakistani asylum seekers**

Sri Lanka must stop deporting Pakistani asylum seekers, a practice banned under international law, UNHCR said on Saturday. Sri Lanka began arresting asylum seekers and refugees on 9 June and has since detained 214 Pakistanis and Afghans in two asylum centres, UNHCR said. Authorities in Colombo said the influx of illegal immigrants in the past year had become a burden on state resources and potentially compromised state and regional security. The Sri Lankan government also blamed people trafficking networks for the recent rise in asylum seekers reaching its shores. Sri Lanka's Ministry of External Affairs said the number of refugees or asylum seekers had risen by 700% in the 2013-2014 period.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140802173330-bcan1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140802173330-bcan1)

**Pakistan paramilitary soldier killed by Afghan fire**

A Pakistani paramilitary soldier was killed on Friday by cross-border fire from Afghanistan in the northwestern mountainous tribal region of Bajaur, military officials said. " It comes after a foiled attack on Pakistani check posts by dozens of militants hiding in Afghanistan's border areas earlier this week. At least six militants were killed and nine others were wounded in the attack on Tuesday night near a post between Tripaman and Inkal Sar in the Lower Dir district, close to the border in the country's restive northwest.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/141500-pakistan-paramilitary-soldier-killed-by-afghan-fire**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/141500-pakistan-paramilitary-soldier-killed-by-afghan-fire)

**Afghanistan**

**UN hails Kabul commitment to end using child soldiers – UNICEF mention**

The UN welcomed on 1 August the Government of Afghanistan’s commitment to end and prevent the recruitment of children in the Afghan national security forces. The Afghan Government recently reconfirmed its commitment with the endorsement of a ‘Road Map Towards Compliance,’ which details 15 measures to fully implement an Action Plan signed with the UN in 2011. The road map was supported by UNAMA and **UNICEF** in their roles as co-chairs of the UN-led Country Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict.

**Bakhtar News Agency -** [**http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/press-release/un-welcomes-afghan-governments-endorsement-of-road-map/**](http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/press-release/un-welcomes-afghan-governments-endorsement-of-road-map/)

**Election crisis deepens with new fraud allegations**

Afghanistan's troubled presidential election plunged deeper into crisis on Sunday when one of the main contenders accused a deputy of President Hamid Karzai of orchestrating fraud in favour of his rival. Supporters of Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, released an audio recording they said was Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili encouraging vote rigging in favour of Ashraf Ghani, the other contender in the race. The eight million votes cast in the second round of the election, held in June, are currently being audited under UN supervision, according to a deal brokered by the US.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140803131249-rxcdj**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140803131249-rxcdj)

**Nepal**

**10 dead, 155 missing after landslide in Nepal**

The death toll from Saturday's landslide in central Nepal that blocked a river and formed a 3km long lake that is threatening to burst through the landslide debris and sweep villages downstream has risen to 10, while 155 people are estimated to be missing, the Home Ministry said Monday. The landslide at Jure village in Sindhupalchowk district, located some 60 km northeast of Kathmandu, happened at 3am Saturday. It swept away three villages including Jure and completely blocked Sunkoshi River for more than 12 hours, after which water started overflowing from a section of the landslide debris where Nepal Army soldiers conducted controlled explosions Saturday. Around 40 people were injured in the disaster, while 96 displaced people are living in temporary camps set up by security personnel.

**Kyodo News -** [**http://english.kyodonews.jp/news/2014/08/305265.html**](http://english.kyodonews.jp/news/2014/08/305265.html)

**Pakistan**

**Bomb kills religious leader and guards in northwest Pakistan**

A bomb killed a Pakistani religious leader and two of his guards during a celebration at a northwestern shrine on Monday, police said, as officers prepared for a militant backlash over a continuing military operation. Monday's bomb attack took place as a crowd of thousands gathered at a Sufi shrine near the city of Dera Ismail Khan where the religious leader, Faqir Jamshed, was presiding at a function. The attack killed Jamshed and his guards. Recent weeks have been quiet as Muslims observed the holy month of Ramadan by fasting during the day. But police have said they expect attacks to increase after Ramadan ended last week.

**Reuters** - [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G40FL20140804**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G40FL20140804)

**Sri Lanka**

**Authorities launch drought relief measures for farming families**

Sri Lanka's government will roll out a relief programme to help vulnerable farmers cope with the effects of a worsening drought, as part of a wider effort to protect people from the frequent extreme weather events that are threatening the country’s steady economic gains. Some parts of the country have gone without significant rains since November, especially the arid north and east. FAO and Sri Lanka’s Department of Agriculture have released reports indicating that 15% of the rice harvest will be lost this year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140731103332-eq0c4/?source=jtOtherNews3&utm\_source=MailingList&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=AlertNet+Expresso+-+Aug+1+2014**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140731103332-eq0c4/?source=jtOtherNews3&utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AlertNet+Expresso+-+Aug+1+2014)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Cameroon moves to step up fight against Boko Haram**

Cameroon's president has sent his army chief to the north of the country to beef up the battle against Nigerian group Boko Haram. Following a series of cross-border incursions and kidnappings, President Paul Biya said Saturday he was also sending more troops and military supplies to the area. The announcement comes ahead of a key US-Africa summit hosted by US President Barack Obama in Washington where the fight against terrorism is expected to top the agenda. "In the last few weeks our forces have made important advances against Boko Haram, but it is a long fight," Biya said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/08/cameroon-moves-step-fight-boko-haram/**](http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/08/cameroon-moves-step-fight-boko-haram/)

**WHO chief says Ebola out of control but can be stopped**

An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa is out of control but can be stopped with more resources and tougher measures, WHO Chief Margaret Chan said on Friday. The outbreak is the worst since the disease was discovered in the mid-1970s, with 729 deaths in four different countries. "This outbreak is moving faster than our efforts to control it," Chan told the presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone at an emergency meeting in Guinea's capital Conakry. "If the situation continues to deteriorate, the consequences can be catastrophic in terms of lost lives but also severe socio-economic disruption and a high risk of spread to other countries," she said, according to a WHO transcript.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/01/us-health-ebola-who-idUSKBN0G14AV20140801**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/01/us-health-ebola-who-idUSKBN0G14AV20140801)

**Ebola-hit African states seal off outbreak epicentre**

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone announced Friday an isolation zone sealing off the epicentre of the world's worst-ever Ebola outbreak, where the three countries meet. "We have agreed to take important and extraordinary actions at the inter-country level to focus on cross-border regions that have more than 70% of the epidemic," said Hadja Saran Darab, the secretary-general of the Mano River Union bloc grouping the West African nations. "These areas will be isolated by police and military. The people in these areas being isolated will be provided with material support."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/african-states-launch-100mn-ebola-response-plan-170858040.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/african-states-launch-100mn-ebola-response-plan-170858040.html)

**CAR**

**22 killed in fighting: peacekeepers**

At least 22 people were killed in clashes between rival anti-balaka and Seleka militias in CAR this week, African peacekeepers said on Friday. "People claiming to be members of anti-balaka entered the town on Wednesday and starting shooting in the direction of the bases of former Seleka, triggering a riposte," an officer from the MISCA peacekeeping force said of the fighting in the northwestern town of Batangafo. He said that most of the victims were civilians and that there were also several dozen people injured. Locals had fled "en masse to take refuge in a local hospital at the MISCA base" the officer said, but added that a relative calm had returned to the town by Friday morning.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/22-killed-in-central-africa-fighting-peacekeepers-569115**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/22-killed-in-central-africa-fighting-peacekeepers-569115)

**Seleka rebels refuse to recognise ceasefire**

An influential faction of the former Seleka rebel coalition in the CAR reportedly said that it does not recognise a ceasefire agreement signed last week by major players in the country’s ongoing crisis. “The military wing of Seleka does not recognise the agreement” signed in Brazzaville in July, said a statement by Seleka military chief General Joseph Zoundeko. “Nobody was mandated to put a signature at the bottom of the agreement on behalf of the Seleka,” Zoundeko said in a statement. “However, we remain open to dialogue,” the statement added.

**AFP -** [**http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/international/294137/seleka-rebels-refuse-to-recognise-car-ceasefire**](http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/international/294137/seleka-rebels-refuse-to-recognise-car-ceasefire)

**Cameroon**

**Cholera outbreak in north, assistance hampered by Boko Haram**

A cholera epidemic in northern Cameroon has killed at least 65 people and infected about 1,300 people in two months, health experts said on Saturday. They said the insurgency by Boko Haram was also hampering efforts to control the outbreak. Some 185 suspected cholera cases were recorded last week alone in the outbreak focused on the Mogode, Hina and Bourha districts on the turbulent Nigerian border. The death toll is expected to climb as more cases are confirmed by laboratory testing.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/02/us-health-ebola-cholera-idUSKBN0G20EE20140802**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/02/us-health-ebola-cholera-idUSKBN0G20EE20140802)

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