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CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**EU, US slam Russian aid convoy to east Ukraine**

A first group of trucks reached Lugansk, which has been without water and power for weeks, after making its way along a perilous route from the border, a local official said. The European Union (EU) and the United States demanded that Russia immediately withdraw the convoy, amid fears the cargo could shore up pro-Moscow rebels fighting Kiev's forces. Washington warned Russia it could face further sanctions, while the United Nations (UN) Security Council expressed concern that the move could lead to an escalation in the four-month conflict.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/kiev-west-slam-russia-s/1326168.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/kiev-west-slam-russia-s/1326168.html)

**Ukraine**

**Separatist forces accused of threatening mass ‘executions’**

The armed group calling itself the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) must not carry out 'executions', including a reported threat of killing prisoners facing life sentences, Amnesty International said. The Ukraine’s National Security and Defense Council announced that fighters from the group had seized a penitentiary institution in Donetsk and threatened to kill all prisoners facing life sentences, forcing the others to join their ranks. The DPR introduced what it refers to as a Criminal Code on 17 August, providing the ‘death penalty’ for a number of crimes including treason, looting and espionage.

**AI -** [**http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/separatist-forces-ukraine-threaten-mass-executions-2014-08-22**](http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/separatist-forces-ukraine-threaten-mass-executions-2014-08-22)

EAP

**DPR Korea**

**WFP says without more funding, it may pull out**

WFP says it may have to shut down its operations in DPR Korea by early next year unless it gets more funding from international donors by this fall. The U.N. agency has already scaled back its planned two-year, $200 million program to feed 2.4 million people because it has only enough funds to cover about a quarter of the cost. Its regional director for Asia, Kenro Oshidari, tells The Associated Press that to run a credible nutritional program, aimed at preventing stunting in children, it needs about $50 million more. That would target about 670,000 children aged under 2 and mothers. He says that without a replenishment of money by November, the program could be forced to shut down operations by February 2015.

**AP -** [**http://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2014/08/22/un-warns-its-food-aid-program-in-nkorea-at-risk**](http://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2014/08/22/un-warns-its-food-aid-program-in-nkorea-at-risk)

**Malaysia**

**Nearly 1,000 people detained in eastern security operations**

Nearly 1,000 people were detained on Saturday when security forces swooped on a squatter settlement in eastern Malaysia, suspected to be a haven for criminals, a security official said. Malaysian authorities have enforced a dusk-to-dawn curfew in several areas in Sabah since last month to stop intrusions of suspected Filipino militants. A Malaysian police officer was killed and another officer kidnapped in an attack by suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels in a resort in nearby Semporna town in July.

**DPA -** [**http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/925-held-in-malaysia-security-swoop-1.1739881**](http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/925-held-in-malaysia-security-swoop-1.1739881)

**Myanmar**

**Over 310,000 in Rakhine State still need aid**

Two years after inter-communal violence first broke out in Rakhine State more than 310,000 people are still in need of humanitarian assistance there, says OCHA. Those in need included both Muslim and ethnic Rakhine residents. The number of international humanitarian staff in Rakhine State decreased sharply after attacks on UN and NGO facilities in March following accusations that they favoured Muslims.

**Myanmar Times -** [**http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/11444-over-310-000-in-rakhine-state-still-need-aid.html**](http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/11444-over-310-000-in-rakhine-state-still-need-aid.html)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Suspected Shabaab militants behead driver**

A group of suspected Shabaab Islamist militants have beheaded a Kenyan driver after kidnapping a group of traders on Kenyan soil near the resort island of Lamu, police said Saturday. The militants kidnapped the traders on Wednesday and took them to the dense Boni forest area in Lamu county. The militants released three of them who were Muslims and beheaded a Christian.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/suspected-shebab-militants-behead-kenyan-driver-111034324.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/suspected-shebab-militants-behead-kenyan-driver-111034324.html)

**Mozambique**

**Renamo rebels say ceasefire signed with government**

Mozambique's government and former rebel movement Renamo have signed a ceasefire ending two years of armed conflict, Renamo said on Sunday. Chief negotiators from the government and Renamo signed the declaration late Sunday night in the capital Maputo ending a nearly year-long negotiation process. The late night declaration came after the two sides reached a general peace agreement a week ago including consensus over the integration of Renamo's remaining armed forces into state security forces.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/renamo-rebels-ceasefire-signed-mozambique-government-223754299.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/renamo-rebels-ceasefire-signed-mozambique-government-223754299.html)

**South Sudan**

**Ceasefire monitor dies after officials held by rebels**

A member of an East African regional body monitoring a ceasefire in South Sudan died of a heart attack after some monitors were detained by rebels to the north of the country, further complicating a peace process. Ethiopia's Seyoum Mesfin, the chief mediator at the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is trying to broker peace in South Sudan, said the rebels' action was a violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement signed by the two warring parties earlier this year. Seyoum said the incident happened early on Sunday in the oil-producing Unity state, but he did not disclose the total number of those being held or their nationalities.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GO0L820140824**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GO0L820140824)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Drought hits food supplies in Central America**

Central America is having one of its worst droughts in decades, and experts warned that major farm losses and the deaths of hundreds of cattle in the region could leave hundreds of thousands of families without food. The agricultural losses are largely in corn and beans, basic staples of the region's diet, the WFP and the FAO said in a joint statement. "The impact of the prolonged heat wave is having on nutrition and food security in parts of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua is very worrisome," the agencies said.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/drought-hits-food-supplies-central-america-25077222**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/drought-hits-food-supplies-central-america-25077222)

**Colombia**

**Military meets face-to-face with rebels**

Members of Colombia's military met face-to-face Friday with rebels for the first time as talks aimed at ending a half-century war enter a decisive phase. Leading the delegation is Gen. Javier Flores, head of Colombia's Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has been one of the FARC's fiercest battlefield adversaries, having led an elite, U.S.-trained unit that took out several top guerrilla leaders.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/colombias-military-meets-face-face-rebels-25091444**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/colombias-military-meets-face-face-rebels-25091444)

**Dominican Republic**

**At least 4,000 people displaced by storm**

One person was swept away and 4,000 were displaced when heavy rains from a newly forming tropical storm (Tropical Storm Cristobal) slammed into the Dominican Republic, authorities said, warning the Bahamas was next. Flooding near rivers and in cities also damaged more than 800 homes and cut off 23 towns, the emergency center said in its latest update. Some 4,105 people went to take refuge in the homes of family and friends, it added. Authorities have declared an alert in 18 of the country's 32 provinces, with the most heavily affected being San Pedro de Macoris in the east, where floodwaters have cut the land connections with several towns and destroyed dozens of homes.

**AFP -** [**http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/One-missing--4-000-displaced-by-storm-in-Dominican-Republic**](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/One-missing--4-000-displaced-by-storm-in-Dominican-Republic)

**EFE -** [**http://www.laprensasa.com/309\_america-in-english/2677788\_at-least-3-603-displaced-by-flooding-in-d-r.html**](http://www.laprensasa.com/309_america-in-english/2677788_at-least-3-603-displaced-by-flooding-in-d-r.html)

**Mexico**

**Country on alert as Intense Hurricane Marie threatens coast**

Hurricane Marie intensified to a powerful category five storm in the Pacific, as six Mexican states braced for heavy rain and dangerous waves. As the eighth hurricane of the eastern Pacific season, Marie was packing maximum sustained winds of 260 kilometers per hour, according to the latest bulletin from US forecasters. The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned the storm could continue to gain strength over the next day or two. In Mexico, the national weather service said that heavy rains threatened the states of Michoacan, Colima, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Jalisco and Nayarit, warning they could trigger mudslides and cause rivers to overflow their banks. It urged the millions of people living in those states to "exercise caution" and to stay tuned for updates.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/marie-strengthens-hurricane-pacific-off-mexico-000641975.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/marie-strengthens-hurricane-pacific-off-mexico-000641975.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**UNICEF Statement on latest deaths of children in Israel and Gaza**

"The death of a four year old Israeli child in a rocket attack yesterday and the reported deaths of two Palestinian children in Gaza in an airstrike this morning, add to those of 478 other Palestinian children killed in attacks in Gaza over the last month. The deaths of children on all sides constitute further tragic evidence of the terrible impact the conflict is having on children and their families on all sides.” "Children are bearing the brunt of a conflict that is not of their making. The fighting is inflicting terrible suffering on children and having a devastating impact on the infrastructure upon which they rely for their health, education, protection and wellbeing.”

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_74869.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_74869.html)

**Syria jihadists post video of kidnapped Lebanese police**

The jihadist Al-Nusra Front has posted a video showing kidnapped Lebanese security personnel calling on the Hezbollah movement to withdraw its fighters from Syria. The nine men, who appear to be eight Lebanese policemen and a soldier, are among 24 security forces still in the hands of jihadists after fighting erupted on the Syrian border earlier this month. In the video posted Friday night on Islamist websites, the men are seated in front of a black flag with the logo of Al-Nusra, the Syrian affiliate of Al-Qaeda. Lebanon's As-Safir newspaper said Saturday that the governments of Turkey and Qatar were now involved in negotiations to free the security forces.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/syria-jihadists-post-video-kidnapped-lebanese-police-103648351.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/syria-jihadists-post-video-kidnapped-lebanese-police-103648351.html)

**Iraq**

**Mosque attack kills 70 people, Sunnis halt talks**

Gunmen attacked a Sunni mosque during Friday prayers, killing at least 70 people and prompting Sunni lawmakers to freeze talks on forming a new government. The onslaught on the Musab bin Omair Mosque in the village of Imam Wais began with a suicide bombing near its entrance, followed by a raid by gunmen who stormed the building, opening fire on worshippers, security officials said. At least 70 people were killed, including four Shiite militiamen, and more than 60 people were wounded.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/iraqi-cleric-urges-leaders-not-delay-government-110553288.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/iraqi-cleric-urges-leaders-not-delay-government-110553288.html)

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/shiite-militiamen-kill-70-iraq-sunni-mosque-171102077.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/shiite-militiamen-kill-70-iraq-sunni-mosque-171102077.html)

**Suicide attacks kill at least 17 people after mosque shooting**

Two suicide bombers in Iraq killed at least 17 people in apparent revenge attacks after a major assault on a Sunni mosque heightened sectarian tensions. In Baghdad, a bomber rammed a vehicle into an intelligence headquarters on Saturday, killing at least eight people. Near Tikrit, a suicide bomber driving a military Humvee packed with explosives attacked a gathering of soldiers and Shi'ite militias on Friday night, killing nine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11052839/Suicide-attacks-kill-at-least-17-in-Iraq-after-mosque-shooting.html**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11052839/Suicide-attacks-kill-at-least-17-in-Iraq-after-mosque-shooting.html)

**UN warns of possible massacre in IS-besieged town**

The United Nations has warned of a possible massacre in the northern Iraqi town of Amerli, which has been under the siege of IS militants for more than two months. According to the BBC, special representative Nickolay Mladenov says he is "seriously alarmed" by reports regarding the conditions in which the town's residents live. The people of the town have no access to electricity or drinking water, and are running out of food and medical supplies. The people living in Amerli say they have been resisting the militants on their own and have received no foreign aid since the siege began.

**ANI-** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/un-warns-of-possible-massacre-in-is-besieged-iraqi-town-114082400266\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/un-warns-of-possible-massacre-in-is-besieged-iraqi-town-114082400266_1.html)

**Libya**

**Armed fighters have backed the return of Libya's previous parliament**

Islamist-led armed groups have announced the reinstatement of Libya's previous parliament after taking control of the international airport in Tripoli, effectively splitting Libya's polarised political system into two separate bodies. The General National Congress (GNC) - the predecessor to Libya's newly-elected House of Representatives - announced in a televised statement that it would retake control of parliament and assume its duties as of Sunday. The GNC will host its first session on Sunday in Tripoli, while the House of Representatives will meet in Tobruk.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/libya-airport-takeover-tripoli-political-split-20148249154577648.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/libya-airport-takeover-tripoli-political-split-20148249154577648.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Gaza gunmen kill 18 alleged spies**

Gaza gunmen have killed 18 alleged spies for Israel, including seven who were lined up behind a mosque and shot, in response to Israel's deadly airstrikes against top Hamas leaders. Two of those killed were women, according to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, which called for an immediate halt to what it said were "extrajudicial executions". Hamas media portrayed the killings as the beginning of a new crackdown, under the rallying cry of "choking the necks of the collaborators". The Al Majd website, which is close to the Hamas security services, said suspects would now be dealt with "in the field" rather than in the courts in order to create a deterrent.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/israel-palestinians-trade-fire-2-killed-gaza-062712598.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/israel-palestinians-trade-fire-2-killed-gaza-062712598.html)

**Israel strikes kill 10 in Gaza as Egypt readies talks**

Israel pounded Gaza on Saturday with scores of air strikes, killing 10 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and bringing down a 12-storey apartment building as Egypt called for new truce talks. Since a previous round of frantic Egyptian diplomacy collapsed last Tuesday, shattering nine days of calm, 86 Palestinians and a four-year-old Israeli boy have been killed in the violence. Israel on Saturday sent text messages, voice mails and leaflets warning Palestinians that "every house from which militant activity is carried out, will be targeted" and to stay away from "terrorists". Israel has vowed no let-up until it can guarantee the safety of its civilians, while Hamas insists that Israel must end its eight-year blockade of the territory as part of any truce.

**AFP -** [**http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/428351/israel-strikes-kill-9-in-gaza-as-egypt-readies-talks**](http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/428351/israel-strikes-kill-9-in-gaza-as-egypt-readies-talks)

**Israeli raid kills mother, 3 children in north Gaza: Medics**

An Israeli air strike killed a mother and three children from the same family in northern Gaza on Sunday, medics said, on the 48th day of the Israeli assault on Gaza. The strike hit a home near Jabalia in the north of the Palestinian territory, emergency spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said, taking Sunday's Palestnian death toll there to at least 12. Earlier strikes in the day killed a one-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy, Qudra said.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/109128/World/Region/Israeli-raid-kills-mother,--children-in-north-Gaza.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/109128/World/Region/Israeli-raid-kills-mother,--children-in-north-Gaza.aspx)

**Syria**

**Death toll from civil war tops 191,000: UN**

The United Nations says the death toll from Syria's civil war has risen to more than 191,000 people killed between March 2011 and April 2014. The figure is the first issued by the U.N.'s human rights office since July 2013, when it documented more than 100,000 killed. The U.N.'s top human rights official, Navi Pillay, who oversees the Geneva-based office, said Friday the new figures are so much higher because they include additional killings from earlier periods, as well as deaths since the last report.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/death-toll-syrian-civil-war-tops-191000-25080294**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/death-toll-syrian-civil-war-tops-191000-25080294)

**Islamic State fighters seize air base**

Islamic State militants stormed an air base in northeast Syria on Sunday, capturing most of it from government forces after days of fighting over the strategic location, a witness and a monitoring group said. Fighting raged inside the walls of the Tabqa air base, the Syrian army's last foothold in an area otherwise controlled by IS, which has seized large areas of Syria and Iraq. In nearby Raqqa city, there was celebratory gunfire and several mosques announced through their loudspeakers that the base had fallen to IS and cheered "God is greatest", a witness in Raqqa told Reuters. Syrian state television said that after fighting fierce battles, the military was "regrouping" its forces.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/islamic-state-retreats-north-syrias-homs-monitor-114213356.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/islamic-state-retreats-north-syrias-homs-monitor-114213356.html)

**Kidnappers free US journalist missing since 2012**

Kidnappers in Syria have freed a U.S. journalist missing since 2012, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday, following what Qatari-owned Al Jazeera said were efforts by the Gulf Arab state to win his release. Kerry said in a statement announcing the release of Theo Curtis that the United States was using "every diplomatic, intelligence and military tool" at its disposal to secure the release of other Americans held hostage in Syria. News of Curtis's release emerged just days after Islamic State militants this week killed American journalist James Foley, who was kidnapped in Syria in 2012.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/24/us-syria-crisis-usa-hostage-idUSKBN0GO0QQ20140824**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/24/us-syria-crisis-usa-hostage-idUSKBN0GO0QQ20140824)

**Tunisia**

**Police kill two women in tense region**

Police killed two young women in a tense region of Tunisia early Saturday, mistaking them for members of an armed group, the interior ministry and a relative said. An internal security patrol was stationed by the roadside in Kasserine, in central-western Tunisia, "after a citizen supplied information about an armed group heading for the town," the ministry said in a statement. Ashraf Hendiri, a cousin of the women, told an AFP correspondent in Kasserine that he was also in the car and that the driver refused to stop fearing the people by the road were "terrorists." In the interior ministry's statement, it stressed "the need to obey police orders, especially in the current special situation." The ministry said it "regrets the death of the two young women and offers its condolences to their families."

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-23/268268-police-kill-two-women-in-tense-region-of-tunisia.ashx#axzz3BFDPClNJ**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-23/268268-police-kill-two-women-in-tense-region-of-tunisia.ashx#axzz3BFDPClNJ)

**Yemen**

**Government offers to resign within a month to end Houthi protests**

Yemen's government offered on Saturday to resign within a month and to review an unpopular decision to cut fuel subsidies in an attempt to end protests by the Shi'ite Houthi movement, a government source told Reuters. Tens of thousands of Yemenis massed in the capital Sanaa on Friday in a protest called by the Houthis to demand the government's resignation and a reversal of the subsidy cuts. The rally came at the end of a week of demonstrations that have piled pressure on President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/23/us-yemen-protests-idUSKBN0GN06820140823**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/23/us-yemen-protests-idUSKBN0GN06820140823)

**Talks on new govt collapse over Shi'ite Houthi subsidy demands**

Talks on forming a new Yemeni government collapsed on Sunday over demands by Shi'ite Muslim Houthis to restore fuel subsidies cut by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, officials said, and further demonstrations in the capital Sanaa were expected. The Houthis, who have been fighting for years for more power for their Zaydi Shi'ite Muslim sect in north Yemen, have massed tens of thousands of supporters on the outskirts of Sanaa to press the government to quit and to restore fuel subsidies. The government offered on Saturday to resign within a month to pave the way for a technocrat administration that would review the fuel subsidy issue, but officials said the Houthis had demanded an immediate reinstatement of the subsidies.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/24/uk-yemen-protests-idUKKBN0GN06M20140824**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/24/uk-yemen-protests-idUKKBN0GN06M20140824)

SA

**Across SA**

**India, Pakistan exchange gunfire at border; four villagers killed**

Indian and Pakistani security forces traded gunfire Saturday in the disputed region of Kashmir, defence officials said, killing two villagers on each side. India claimed that the Pakistan Rangers targeted 15 Indian border posts and more than a dozen villages, the sources said. An intermittent exchange of cross-border fire continued for hours, officials on both sides said. India recently cancelled talks for 25 August between the foreign secretaries of the two countries after the Pakistani high commissioner in New Delhi met separatist leaders from India-administered Kashmir.

**DPA** - [**http://www.dw.de/four-killed-as-india-pakistan-trade-gunfire-in-kashmir/a-17873382**](http://www.dw.de/four-killed-as-india-pakistan-trade-gunfire-in-kashmir/a-17873382)

**Afghanistan**

**Polio alarm in the Southeast**

Health officials in the Khost province of southeast Afghanistan have warned of a polio outbreak, noting that they have recorded one case and that more are likely. Complicating matters, this summer over 150,000 refugees from North Waziristan, Pakistan, poured over the border into Afghanistan, seeking refuge from a military offensive against insurgents. The influx from an area that has generated most of Pakistan's polio cases this year immediately raised alarm. Most of Afghanistan's new cases of polio this year are genetically linked to Pakistan, according to HealthNet TPO.

**IWPR -** [**http://iwpr.net/report-news/polio-alarm-afghan-southeast**](http://iwpr.net/report-news/polio-alarm-afghan-southeast)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/21/us-afghanistan-health-polio-idUSKBN0GK2A220140821**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/21/us-afghanistan-health-polio-idUSKBN0GK2A220140821)

**Three killed in failed prison break**

Two prisoners and a child were killed Sunday during an attempted prison break in southern Afghanistan, a top police official said. The chief of police for Zabul province in southeastern Afghanistan said some explosives had been placed earlier near a prison wall. He said the explosion was triggered by a child although it wasn't clear whether the child did it intentionally. After the explosion two Taliban prisoners inside tried to grab the weapons of the police guards, he said. The police managed to shoot and kill the two Taliban prisoners but two officers were also wounded in the incident.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-killed-failed-afghan-prison-break-25103580**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-killed-failed-afghan-prison-break-25103580)

**Afghan presidential inauguration is delayed with candidates deep in conflict**

Afghanistan's next president was meant to be inaugurated on Monday but the deadline has been pushed back to 2 Sept. as rival candidates remain deadlocked over who won an election meant to mark the troubled country's first democratic transfer of power. Rivals Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, as part of a U.S.-brokered deal, must form a government of national unity and cooperate on an audit of all eight million votes that were cast to eliminate concerns over widespread electoral fraud. The inauguration had to be pushed back a second time since a June run-off vote because officials from both camps, along with the electoral body, doubted the target would be met.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/25/us-afghanistan-election-idUSKBN0GP0BZ20140825**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/25/us-afghanistan-election-idUSKBN0GP0BZ20140825)

**Pakistan**

**5.8 million Pakistani children vaccinated against polio**

The UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme announced that over 5.8 million Pakistani children were vaccinated against polio in June and July, in implementation of the directives of the President, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to boost the Pakistani health sector's preventive programmes. The UAE's vaccination campaign registered high levels of success by exceeding the targeted sector in 23 areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the tribal region. A total of 3.4 million vaccinations were administered in June, and 2.3 million in July. The administration of the programme noted that during July, vaccination was stepped up in the displaced people areas.

**Khaleej Times -** [**http://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/inside.asp?xfile=/data/nationgeneral/2014/August/nationgeneral\_August218.xml&section=nationgeneral**](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/inside.asp?xfile=/data/nationgeneral/2014/August/nationgeneral_August218.xml&section=nationgeneral)

**Four guerrillas, two soldiers killed in Kashmir gunfights**

Four guerrillas and two soldiers were killed Sunday in two gunfights in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. A soldier was critically injured in the gunfight. He was brought to the army's base hospital in Badami Bagh cantonment area of Srinagar where he died of his injuries, the officer said. Personnel from the counter-insurgency Rashtriya Rifles were engaged in the gunfight in Kalaroos forest area with heavily armed guerrillas who had infiltrated into the valley two days back. The forest area is around 95 km from Srinagar. In another incident, a soldier was killed by separatist guerrillas Sunday near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district.

**IANS -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/jammu-and-kashmir/soldier-killed-by-guerrillas-in-kashmir\_956924.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/jammu-and-kashmir/soldier-killed-by-guerrillas-in-kashmir_956924.html)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**DR Congo sends Ebola expert to help Liberia combat disease**

The DR Congo sent its Ebola virus expert to Liberia to help combat the disease following an official request by the Liberian President’s government, according to DR Congo Information Minister. The Information Minister said that the DR Congo President has made available the Director of the National Institute for Biomedical Research-INRB, and professor of Microbiology, Kinshasa University medical school, available to Liberia following an official request by the government in Monrovia. The Information Minister also sought to tamp down speculation that the sickness in the remote northern Equateur province that left several people dead was Ebola. He said the Health Minister and his team have launched an inquiry into the yet to be determined disease.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/drc-sends-ebola-expert-to-help-liberia-combat-disease/2423990.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/drc-sends-ebola-expert-to-help-liberia-combat-disease/2423990.html)

**Burkina Faso**

**Mass rally against extending President's mandate**

Tens of thousands of people marched Saturday in the capital of Burkina Faso to protest against any move by the president to extend his decades-hold on power, in the latest such opposition rally. Blaise Compaore, an often controversial titan of West African politics, has hinted he may seek a referendum on whether to change the constitution to allow him to run in 2015 polls. Organizers said more than 100,000 protesters had taken part in the Ouagadougou rally in what they termed "record mobilisation." The rally spanned several kilometers and demonstrators marched to the presidency and back, shouting slogans such as "No to the referendum", "Enough of Compaore's dictatorship" or "No need for a strongman in Burkina."

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/144512-mass-rally-against-extending-burkina-president-s-mandate**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/144512-mass-rally-against-extending-burkina-president-s-mandate)

**CAR**

**New PM unveils government**

Newly-appointed prime minister of the Central African Republic, Mahamat Kamoun, has unveiled his government, which includes 31 cabinet ministers, an official source said on Friday. At least 19 of the 31 ministers are fresh faces, the source said, noting that the new line-up included four Muslim ministers and seven women.

**AA -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/central-africa-unveils-government-deadly-clashes-182838688.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/central-africa-unveils-government-deadly-clashes-182838688.html)

**New government already under fire**

A senior member of the Central African Republic's Seleka rebel movement has criticised the country's new government just a day after it was unveiled, in a potential blow for peace. The new government unveiled Friday represents a fresh attempt to put an end to more than a year of ethnic and religious bloodshed that has killed thousands and forced around a million from their homes. It includes representatives from rival armed groups that have been fighting each other, in a bid to bring them back into the mainstream -- three from the mainly Muslim Seleka group and two from the majority-Christian 'anti-balaka' militias. But on Saturday, the third-in-command of Seleka -- which ousted President Francois Bozize last year, precipitating the chaos currently gripping the country -- slammed the line-up.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/brand-c-africa-government-already-under-fire-155718995.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/brand-c-africa-government-already-under-fire-155718995.html)

**Country declares Ebola outbreak in northern Equateur province**

Democratic Republic of Congo declared an Ebola outbreak in its northern Equateur province on Sunday after two out of eight cases tested came back positive for the deadly virus, Health Minister Felix Kabange Numbi said. A mysterious disease has killed dozens of people in Equateur in recent weeks but the World Health Organization had said on Thursday it was not Ebola. "I declare an Ebola epidemic in the region of Djera, in the territory of Boende in the province of Equateur," Kabange Numbi told a news conference. The region lies about 1,200 km north of the capital Kinshasa.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/drcNews/idAFL5N0QU14820140824**](http://af.reuters.com/article/drcNews/idAFL5N0QU14820140824)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-28922290**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-28922290)

**Ghana**

**Cholera outbreak kills at least 67 people since June**

Cholera has killed at least 67 people in Ghana since June and infected more than 5,000 others in an outbreak that highlights the health and sanitation challenges facing the country. The Ghana Health Service (GHS) said the outbreak was centred on impoverished communities in urban areas in the south that lack adequate toilets, though there were also a few cases in rural parts of the north of the country. Some 54 people have died in or near Accra, and around 300 people are now being infected daily with the highly contagious disease, putting pressure on local health facilities, said the GHS director for Greater Accra.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/ghanaNews/idAFL5N0QS3TL20140822**](http://af.reuters.com/article/ghanaNews/idAFL5N0QS3TL20140822)

**Liberia**

**Last Ebola-free region falls to virus**

Every region of Liberia has now been hit by Ebola, officials said on 22 August, as the WHO warned the fight against the worst-ever outbreak of the killer disease would take months. After seeing people fall to the deadly virus in area after area, Liberia said two people had succumbed to the virus in Sinoe province, the last Ebola-free bastion in a country that has seen the biggest toll with 624 deaths.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/last-ebola-free-region-liberia-falls-virus-171732948.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/last-ebola-free-region-liberia-falls-virus-171732948.html)

**Mali**

**Mali releases ex-judge of extremist tribunal**

A Malian activist says an al-Qaida-appointed judge from the Islamic tribunal that meted out harsh punishments while much of the country was under Islamist rule has been released for lack of evidence. Moctar Mariko, president of the Malian Association for Human Rights, said Saturday that Houka Houka Ag Alfousseyni of the extremist group Ansar Dine was released on Aug. 15 after being arrested in January. Much of northern Mali fell to Islamic extremists in 2012. In Timbuktu, Ag Alfousseyni allegedly ordered punishments including public beatings for drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes as well as amputations and an execution.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mali-releases-judge-extremist-tribunal-25097035**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mali-releases-judge-extremist-tribunal-25097035)

**Niger**

**Twelve dead, 36,000 homeless in flooding**

At least 12 people have been killed and more than 36,000 made homeless in Niger due to flooding caused by heavy seasonal rainfall, the government said. "Heavy precipitation recorded in six regions caused flooding and serious damage," the office of Niger's prime minister said in a statement late on 22 August. "Evaluations by the civil protection services uncovered 12 deaths." OCHA, citing government figures, said that 36,441 people had lost their homes in the floods as of 21 August. "The rains are continuing and the damage could require the deployment of more means in terms of emergency food and non-food assistance and tents," OCHA said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GN0G020140823**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GN0G020140823)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram sees huge advances but can be checked**

Boko Haram may be closer than ever to achieving its goal of creating a caliphate in northern Nigeria but comparisons to the Iraq crisis are premature and the military can reverse the group's gains, analysts say. The conflict in the militants' northeastern stronghold remains in flux even as witnesses, security sources and experts report that the insurgents have seized several areas and towns since April. The northeast, under a state of emergency since May 2013, has poor mobile phone coverage, travel is dangerous and the military has restricted the flow of information. The UN has confirmed reports that the towns of Damboa and Gwoza in Borno State were under rebel control earlier this month, although Damboa may have since been retaken. Last week witnesses and an official in Buni Yadi in Yobe state said that town had also been seized.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-sees-huge-advances-checked-185334615.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-sees-huge-advances-checked-185334615.html)

**At least 35 police 'missing' after Boko Haram raid**

Thirty-five Nigerian police officers deployed to a training academy in the northeast are missing after a Boko Haram attack on the facility earlier this week, a spokesman said on 23 August. The militants attacked the academy just outside the town of Gwoza on 20 August. Boko Haram seized Gwoza earlier this month, but the military has said it is preparing an offensive to retake the town in Borno state. The national police spokesperson said that it was premature to speculate on whether the officers had been taken hostage by the militants. Some may have been killed with their bodies not yet found while others may have ran to safety during the militants onslaught but have not yet reported their whereabouts, he said. He added it was possible that some had been abducted but that investigations were ongoing.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/35-nigeria-police-missing-boko-haram-raid-213626270.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/35-nigeria-police-missing-boko-haram-raid-213626270.html)

**Boko Haram leader proclaims ‘Islamic caliphate’ in town**

Boko Haram’s leader said he has created an Islamic caliphate in a northeast Nigeria town seized by the insurgents earlier this month, in a video obtained by AFP on Sunday. He declared that Gwoza, in Borno state, now has “nothing to do with Nigeria”. “By the grace of Allah we will not leave the town. We have come to stay,” said Shekau, who has been designated a global terrorist by the United States and sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council. OCHA earlier this month confirmed reports that Gwoza was under rebel control.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/08/24/Boko-Haram-leader-proclaims-Islamic-caliphate-in-Nigeria-town.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/08/24/Boko-Haram-leader-proclaims-Islamic-caliphate-in-Nigeria-town.html)

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