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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**EU aid to Africa badly spent, British inquiry hears**

A British parliamentary inquiry has heard that more than $650m (£420m) worth of EU aid to Africa may have been badly spent. The House of Lords Committee on External Affairs is looking into about $1.3bn worth of water projects in sub-Saharan Africa during the past decade. Fewer than half of a sample of 23 projects met poor people's needs, the committee heard from EU auditors. The problems ranged from the planning stages to the projects' implementation.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23087918#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23087918#)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Fewer children behind bars, greater reforms needed - EU and UNICEF**

Children in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have seen steady and positive reforms in children's rights but still face huge barriers in accessing justice, according to a new EU-UNICEF report launched Thursday at a conference on justice for children in Brussels. The report, Juvenile Justice in the CEE/CIS region: Progress, Challenges, Obstacles and Opportunities, notes that across the region, fewer children are being put into prison. It also points to ill-treatment, sometimes amounting to torture, in all surveyed countries. Solitary confinement is still allowed in nearly all of them. The EU and UNICEF welcomed moves by governments in the region, including in countries due to join the EU, to widen the scope of reforms towards systematically protecting the rights of all children in the justice process.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_69739.html#**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_69739.html#)

**Georgia**

**Georgia detentions spark parliament boycott**

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's party said Friday it would boycott parliament after four senior officials were arrested over graft allegations, the latest in a slew of investigations into Saakashvili supporters. The officials - including deputy mayor David Alavidze - were detained late Thursday in connection with the alleged embezzlement of some $30 million of city funds, the finance ministry said. Saakashvili's United National Movement Party (UNM) - which lost out in parliamentary elections in October to a coalition headed by now-Prime Minsiter Bidzina Ivanishvili - condemned the arrests as part of an "unprecedented" government attack on the party. The arrests represent the latest in a spate of probes into Saakashvili supporters that the president describes as a political witch hunt against him and his backers.

**AFP -** [**http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/World/Story/A1Story20130628-433235.html**](http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/World/Story/A1Story20130628-433235.html)

**Russia**

**Russian police arrest 1,400 illegal migrants in Moscow**

Russian police have detained about 1,400 illegal migrants living in a makeshift village in Moscow, police said Friday. The raid targeted a settlement in the city‘s southeast, where some 1,380 migrant workers from Central Asia lived in crowded rooms, the Interfax news agency reported. According to police, each room housed eight or nine men in bunk beds, who cooked meals on electric stoves. The fenced settlement of two- and three-storey houses was built by Turkish firm Enka instead of what should have been an office and shopping complex, police said. The illegal dwellers were mainly form Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the report said. They were taken to police stations were they were fined for administrative violations before being released. Experts believe that illegal migrants add another five million to the Russian capital‘s official population of 12 million.

**DPA -** [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/russian-police-arrest-14000-illegal-migrants-in-moscow\_287913.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/russian-police-arrest-14000-illegal-migrants-in-moscow_287913.html)

**Turkey**

**Four arrested in Turkey anti-government protests**

Turkish police have fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse hundreds of anti-government protesters in the capital Ankara, leading to four arrests, local media and witnesses said Friday. Police stepped in to break up the protest late Thursday in the Dikmen residential area of the capital, scene of clashes between demonstrators and police for the past few weeks. "Several hundred people had gathered and booed the government and they did not want to leave until late in the night," a protester told Agence France Presse. The protesters had erected barricades blocking traffic and police came to disperse the crowd, NTV television station reported, adding that four people had been arrested.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88567-four-arrested-in-turkey-anti-government-protests#**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88567-four-arrested-in-turkey-anti-government-protests#)

**Kurdish party to press Turkish government with protest marches**

Turkey's main pro-Kurdish party called on Friday for marches in three major cities this weekend to launch a summer of protests aimed at raising pressure on the government to carry out reforms under a peace process with Kurdish militants. Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants began withdrawing from Turkish territory to bases in northern Iraq last month as part of a deal between the state and the group's jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan to end a conflict which has killed 40,000. There has been little evidence of progress this month with public attention focused instead on weeks of broader and often violent anti-government demonstrations in cities across Turkey.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE95R0CK20130628**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE95R0CK20130628)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Homeless Rohingya boat people face detention deadline**

A six-month deadline for a "temporary stay" in Thailand ends next month for almost 2,000 boat people who claimed to be Rohingya escaping ethnic violence in Burma - as reports surface of mistreatment at Thai immigration detention centers. Since January, nearly 2,000 boat people, claiming to be Rohingyas fleeing sectarian violence in Burma have been apprehended and detained by Thai authorities. Despite condemnation from human rights groups after video footage of mistreatment was aired, conditions for the men remain unchanged. But mounting media reports implicating Thai security in the trafficking of some Rohingya seems to have gotten the attention of top officials.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/rohingya-boat-people-face-deadline-and-no-home/1690358.html#**](http://www.voanews.com/content/rohingya-boat-people-face-deadline-and-no-home/1690358.html#)

**Cambodia**

**Cambodia kicks off election campaign**

Cambodia's political parties have officially started campaigning for next month's general election, which is expected to extend the rule of Prime Minister Hun Sen, Asia's longest-serving leader. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) is expected to win the July 28 polls in a landslide. Hun Sen has run Cambodia since 1985 with little tolerance for opposition. Eight parties are taking part in next month's polls to elect 123 lawmakers to the lower house of parliament. The winner forms a new government to run Cambodia for the next five years.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/06/201362772238232683.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/06/201362772238232683.html#)

**China**

**Death toll from west violence rises to 35**

Chinese state media say the death toll has climbed to 35 from rioting early Wednesday in the far-western region of Xinjiang. Initial reports said 27 people were killed, but a late Thursday night report by the official Xinhua News Agency updated the figure to 35. The tally included 11 assailants shot dead at the scene in Lukqun township in Turpan prefecture. Xinhua did not explain the increase nor what might be causing conflicts in the Turkic-speaking region where ethnic Uighurs have complained of suppression and discrimination by China's ruling Han people. The Xinhua report says rioters killed 24 people, including two police officers, while targeting local police stations, a government building and a construction site-all symbols of Han authority and influx in the region.

**AP -** [**http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\_23555965/death-toll-from-west-chinas-violence-rises-35#**](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23555965/death-toll-from-west-chinas-violence-rises-35#)

**Authorities lift 17-year ban on Dalai Lama photos at Tibet monastery - group**

Chinese officials have lifted a ban on Tibetan monks displaying photographs of the Dalai Lama at a prominent monastery, a rights group said on Thursday, an unexpected policy shift which could ease tensions in the restive region. The decision concerning the Gaden monastery in the Tibetan capital Lhasa - one of the most historically important religious establishments in Tibet - reversed a ban introduced in 1996, the Britain-based Free Tibet group told Reuters, citing sources with direct knowledge of the situation. It was made as similar changes are being considered in other Tibetan regions of China, and may signal authorities are contemplating looser religious restrictions and a policy change over Tibet, three months after President Xi Jinping took office. Chinese officials in western Qinghai province are also considering lifting a ban on Tibetans displaying pictures of the exiled spiritual leader, according to the International Campaign for Tibet, a U.S.-based advocacy group.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/27/us-china-tibet-idUSBRE95Q07E20130627#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/27/us-china-tibet-idUSBRE95Q07E20130627#)

**Myanmar**

**President says authorities 'not behind' religious unrest**

Myanmar's government and army were not behind recent outbreaks of deadly religious violence, the president's spokesman said Friday, amid accusations that security forces stood by -- or were even complicit -- in the clashes. Sectarian bloodshed, mostly targeting Muslims, has laid bare deep divides that were largely suppressed under decades of military rule which ended two years ago in the Buddhist-majority country. Rights groups have criticised the police and army for failing to stop mobs attacking mainly Muslim neighbourhoods in two separate flare-ups of unrest in western and central Myanmar. The speed of the destruction, coupled with eyewitness reports of investigators arriving to spark violence, also led to speculation it was organised by elements within Myanmar's military intent on disrupting the reform process.

**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-authorities-not-behind-religious-unrest-govt**](http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-authorities-not-behind-religious-unrest-govt)

**Two Muslims killed by Myanmar authorities in IDP camp: UN**

Two Muslims were shot dead and six others wounded when security forces opened fire at a camp for some of those displaced by last year's violence in Myanmar's restive Rakhine state, the United Nations refugee agency said Friday. The incident, on Thursday, took place as security forces tried to break up a dispute at the Kyein Ni Pyin camp in Pauktaw, home to at least 4,400 displaced people - mainly Rohingya Muslims whose homes were torched in deadly clashes with ethnic Rakhine locals.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/se-asia/story/two-muslims-killed-myanmar-authorities-idp-camp-un-20130628**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/se-asia/story/two-muslims-killed-myanmar-authorities-idp-camp-un-20130628)

**Philippines**

**Communists kill one, wound nine in Philippine ambush**

Communist insurgents ambushed police trainees in the Philippines Friday, killing one and wounding nine others in the latest of a series of attacks on unarmed targets, officials said. Nearly a hundred trainees, including about 70 women, were jogging in the northern mountain town of Tadian on Friday when guerrillas from the New People's Army opened fire on them, said regional police spokesman Davy Limmong. The attack comes soon after NPA fighters kidnapped five unarmed soldiers in the southern island of Mindanao on June 18 and killed eight unarmed police commandoes in the main island of Luzon in late-May.

**AFP -** [**http://mysinchew.com/node/88139?tid=37#**](http://mysinchew.com/node/88139?tid=37#)

**Philippines' talks with Muslim rebels resume on July 8**

Peace talks between the Philippine government and Muslim rebels will resume on July 8 in Kuala Lumpur with the contentious issue of wealth-sharing as the main focus of discussion, an insurgent leader said Friday. The talks will be held even though they coincide with the Muslim month of Ramadan which may require fasting by Muslim participants, said Ghadzali Jaafar, vice-chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The talks will likely last for five days, he added. Government negotiators could not be contacted for comment. However earlier this month, members of the government peace panel said they hoped to resume talks with the MILF in early July.

**AFP -** [**http://news.malaysia.msn.com/regional/philippines-talks-with-muslim-rebels-resume-on-july-8-2**](http://news.malaysia.msn.com/regional/philippines-talks-with-muslim-rebels-resume-on-july-8-2)

ESAR

**Kenya**

**Anti-polio campaign targets 4.3m children**

An emergency polio immunisation campaign will be conducted in 22 counties next week following an outbreak of the disease in Garissa that has left six people paralysed. The victims include two 19-year-olds, two children aged four years and one year and a four-month old child in the Dadaab refugee camp. The 3-10 July campaign targets 4.3 million children aged five years and below from 3 to 10 July, according to the director of Public Health, Shahnaz Sharif. "The campaign will be conducted in 127 districts within 22 counties while a repeat exercise in the same counties will be held on 17 to 21 August…," Dr Sharif said Thursday in Nairobi. "In these campaigns, we hope to reach 4.3 million

children under five years. However, at the Dadaab refugee camps, everyone will be immunised," he said. Meanwhile, the ministry will introduce a second dose of measles vaccination for children aged 18 months from 1 July in all health facilities countrywide.

**Daily Nation -** [**http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/1896878/-/w2q3wmz/-/index.html#**](http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/1896878/-/w2q3wmz/-/index.html#)

**Inter-ethnic clashes claim over 85 lives in N.Kenya**

More than 85 people have been killed and 100 others seriously injured following an inter-clan conflict between two warring communities in Kenya's northern town of Mandera since March 2012, the UN relief agency said on Friday. A report released in Nairobi on Friday by OCHA shows an estimated 25, 000 others have been displaced in the clashes involving Degodia and Garre communities. The incessant conflict in the two counties pitting rival clans of Garre and Degodia has so far claimed the lives of more than 50 lives this year and paralyzed transport to and from in the two areas.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-06/28/c\_132495644.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-06/28/c_132495644.htm)

**Security worries grow after rebels attack**

In Mozambique, rebels have blocked traffic along a key artery and a mining company has suspended coal exports. And now, the friction between former civil war foes threatens to worsen. Cars and lorries are caught in a traffic jams stretching back kilometers. The drivers have been waiting all night for the army escort which will accompany them on their way at the break of dawn. These are scenes which most Mozambicans remember from the civil war, which ended when a peace deal was signed in 1992. In the meantime there have been ambushes on cars, lorries and buses. At last three people have been killed and several others injured. Renamo itself has not acknowledged responsibility for the attacks. Renamo is blocking the highway north of the River Save bridge

**All Africa-** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201306280318.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201306280318.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**UN demands halt to all military activity on Golan**

The UNSC demanded a halt to all military activity by the Syrian government and opposition fighters on the Golan Heights Thursday and called for stepped-up measures to protect UN peacekeepers who have been caught in crossfire. A resolution adopted unanimously by the council extends the mandate of the UN force monitoring the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights until 31 December.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/demands-halt-military-activity-golan-19507296#**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/demands-halt-military-activity-golan-19507296#)

**Egypt's security clampdown disrupts Gaza smuggling**

An Egyptian security crackdown has severely disrupted smuggling to the neighboring Gaza Strip, causing a fuel shortage, doubling the price of building materials and shutting down some construction sites in the Hamas-ruled territory. Egypt's military clamped down on the lawless Sinai Peninsula, which abuts Gaza, in the run-up to mass protests planned for Sunday by Egyptian opposition activists trying to force out the country's president, Mohammed Morsi. It's not clear if the Sinai lockdown is temporary or signals a tougher security regime aimed at restricting smuggling through tunnels running under the Egypt-Gaza border in the long term. That would have a devastating effect on Gaza, which has relied on smugglers since Israel imposed a border blockade following the rise to power of the Islamic militant group Hamas in 2006.

**AP -** [**http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/us\_news/Egypts-security-clampdown-disrupts-Gaza-smuggling\_89004138#**](http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/us_news/Egypts-security-clampdown-disrupts-Gaza-smuggling_89004138#)

**Egypt**

**Opposition rejects dialogue with Morsi**

Egypt's main opposition coalition Thursday rejected an offer from President Mohamed Morsi for dialogue, repeating its call for early presidential elections and calling for peaceful demonstrations on 30 June. Mohamed ElBaradei, who leads the opposition National Salvation Front, said at a news conference Morsi's speech on Wednesday was "the opposite of a clear admission that the difficult situation that Egypt is going through is the result of his failure to administer the affairs of the country that he took charge of one year ago." ElBaradei, who also heads the liberal Al-Dustur party, read from an NSF statement saying that the opposition "remained determined to call for an early presidential election to bring about the objectives of the revolution, with social justice foremost among them."

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-opposition-rejects-morsis-dialogue-offer-175226402.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-opposition-rejects-morsis-dialogue-offer-175226402.html#)

**Egypt braces for rival mass demonstrations**

Egypt is bracing for rival mass demonstrations, amid tight security in the increasingly polarised nation. President Mohammed Morsi's supporters are to hold "open-ended' rallies - two days ahead of the opposition protests calling for the president to resign. Meanwhile, one person died and a number of others were injured in clashes in northern Egypt late on Thursday. Mr Morsi in a speech marking his first year in office earlier said the unrest was "threatening to paralyse" Egypt. Troops have been deployed in the capital Cairo and other cities.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23092817##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23092817##)

**Egypt clerics warn of 'civil war', urge calm**

Egypt's leading religious authority warned of "civil war" on Friday and called for calm after a member of the ruling Muslim Brotherhood was killed ahead of mass rallies aimed at forcing the president to quit. "Vigilance is required to ensure we do not slide into civil war," the Al-Azhar clerical institution said in a statement reported by state media. It blamed "criminal gangs" who attacked mosques for street violence. Clashes linked to the political tensions have killed five and wounded scores in the recent days. The Brotherhood said all those killed were Mursi supporters, though this could not be independently verified. The ancient Cairo academy, which traditionally maintains a distance from the political establishment, also urged opponents of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi to accept his offer of dialogue rather than pressing on with plans for demonstrations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE95Q0NO20130628**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE95Q0NO20130628)

**Iraq**

**At least 22 killed as bombs tear through coffee shops**

Bombs exploded in busy coffee shops and at other targets across Iraq late on Thursday, killing at least 22 people, police and medics said. In north and south Baghdad, two blasts tore through cafes where scores of young men had gathered to watch a televised football match, killing eight people, police and medical sources said. Two other explosions killed 10 people in coffee shops in the city of Baquba, about 50km (30 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said. Another bomb exploded near a cafe in the town of Jbela, 65km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, killing three, and a "sticky bomb" attached to a car killed a civilian in Iskandariya, 40km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE95Q1EA20130628**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE95Q1EA20130628)

**Lebanon**

**Explosives target alleged Hezbollah convoy in Zahle**

Two small explosive devices went off on Friday in the eastern Lebanese city of Zahle targeting a “security convoy.” According to Lebanese media, the convoy belonged to the Shiite military group Hezbollah, which has been fighting alongside forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad against rebels. “Two bombs exploded at 5:30 a.m. when a security convoy made up of three 4x4 cars were on the international highway in the city of Zahle, which leads to the city of Baalbek,” a security source told AFP. “The gunmen got out of the car and fired into the air as soon as the explosion happened before they continued on their way” in the direction towards Shtoura, near the Syrian border.

**Al Arabiya-** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/06/28/Explosives-target-alleged-Hezbollah-convoy-in-Lebanon.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/06/28/Explosives-target-alleged-Hezbollah-convoy-in-Lebanon.html)

**Sudan**

**Bomb residue’ kills four children in Darfur**

Four children died last Wednesday after reportedly coming into contact with residue from bombs dropped on the water wells of Rofota, East Jebel Marra. Musa Haroun (8), Saleh Mohamed (9), Om Kalthoum (12) and Ibrahim Yahiya Yaqoub (17) went to inspect the wells that were damaged by bombs dropped by a ‘Sudan Air Force Antonov’. Witnesses told Radio Dabanga that soon after returning home, the children all complained of the swelling of their bodies and nausea. This developed into diarrhoea and they also developed a rash. The symptoms deteriorated until all of them

died last Wednesday morning. Residents suspect that the children came into contact with rainwater contaminated by residue from the bombs.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**http://www.radiodabanga.org/node/52373#**](http://www.radiodabanga.org/node/52373#)

**Syria**

**Activists say 8 women and children killed in Syria**

Activists say intense Syrian government shelling has killed eight women and girls in the southern province of Daraa. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Friday the late night attack on Karak, in eastern Daraa, killed four women and four girls. The Observatory relies on a wide network of activists on the ground in Syria for its information. Syria state news agency said regime forces were chasing "terrorist cells" in Daraa province, including along the border with Jordan. It did not mention Karak. SANA said 18 opposition fighters including Jordanians, a Saudi and a Chechen, were killed. It did not refer to civilian casualties.

**AP -** [**http://mynorthwest.com/17/739268/Activists-say-8-women-and-children-killed-in-Syria**](http://mynorthwest.com/17/739268/Activists-say-8-women-and-children-killed-in-Syria)

**Damascus Old City 'hit by suicide attack'**

A suicide bombing has struck near the Maryameye Orthodox Church in the Old City of Damascus, killing at least four people, the pro-government Ikhbariya TV channel reported. The state-run station said the attack occured in the central neighbourhood of Bab Touma, a famous Christian quarter of the capital on Thursday. It also reported several injuries, but has given no indication of numbers at this time. The Maryameye church is near the cobblestone Roman "Straight Street" that runs past many old buildings and a luxury restaurant once frequented by President Bashar al-Assad and his inner circle.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/06/201362713148117290.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/06/201362713148117290.html#)

**Kurdish militia kills three protesters in Syria town: activists**

A Kurdish militia allied with Turkey's rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) imposed a curfew on the Syrian border town of Amuda on Friday after its forces shot three protesters dead, activists said. The Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), which has controlled large swathes of Hasakeh province in northeastern Syria since government troops withdrew from Kurdish-majority areas last year, said one of its fighters was killed in an ambush by a rival armed group. Dozens of demonstrators were also injured when PYD fighters opened fire on Thursday on a protest against the militia's detention last week of a group of activists opposed to its grip on the town, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-28/221903-kurdish-militia-kills-three-protesters-in-syria-town-activists.ashx#axzz2XVgfxbtC**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-28/221903-kurdish-militia-kills-three-protesters-in-syria-town-activists.ashx#axzz2XVgfxbtC)

**Tunisia**

**200 to be evicted in Tunisia refugee camp closure**

Some 200 people in a camp in southeast Tunisia for those who fled the Libya conflict in 2011 will be evicted Sunday when the U.N. refugee agency closes it, an NGO said Thursday. "They are pushing the refugees out of the camp, they are closing it. We condemn the lack of humanitarian aid, the lack of security, the lack of resettlement," Nicanor Haon, with the Boats 4 People NGO, told a news conference. Around 700 people, most of them sub-Saharan Africans, are still living in the camp near the Libyan border; 250 are waiting to be resettled in the United States and the same number have been offered accommodation in Tunisian cities, according to the UNHCR. But the remaining 200 have had their asylum requests rejected and will no longer be the responsibility of the UNHCR when it closes the camp on June 30.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88488-200-to-be-evicted-in-tunisia-refugee-camp-closure**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88488-200-to-be-evicted-in-tunisia-refugee-camp-closure)

ROSA

**India**

**Mass cremations underway in flood-hit northern Indian state**

The Indian authorities have started mass cremations of dead bodies in the flood-hit northern state of Uttarakhand's holy town of Kedarnath even as nearly 4,000 survivors are still waiting to be evacuated from the mountains, a senior official said Thursday. "The mass cremations began Wednesday amid rainfall and are still continuing amid concerns about a threat of disease from decomposing bodies and poor sanitation. However, we are preserving the DNA of unidentified dead bodies which are being cremated. The mass funeral will continue for the next couple of days," he said on condition of anonymity. But the authorities have not released any official figures of dead bodies in the holy town which is cut off from the rest of Uttarakhand after monsoon floods swept through the hilly state, killing thousands and washing away buildings and roads more than 12 days back.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-06/27/c\_132492542.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-06/27/c_132492542.htm#)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistani women shot in 'honour killings'**

Three women in north Pakistan have been shot dead by a male relative who seemed to have believed that they had brought shame on their family, police say. A mother and her two daughters - one aged just 17 - were allegedly killed by her stepson. He had apparently seen a family video in which the daughters were shown laughing in front of their family home. The latest attack took place in Gilgit Baltistan after recordings of the women were circulated in recent months. Campaigners say more than 900 women were killed in Pakistan last year in the name of family honour.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23084689#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23084689#)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Protester confirmed dead at Confederations Cup**

Authorities confirmed the death of a protester Thursday, the day after tens of thousands took to the streets and clashed with police as Brazil played Uruguay in the Confederations Cup semifinals. Police said about 20 people were reported injured and about 30 were arrested. The host city awoke to scenes destruction: store windows destroyed, houses vandalized, a truck burned and several cars at a dealership showroom set on fire. The protester was identified as 21-year-old Douglas Henrique Oliveira. Officials said he died of head injuries after falling from an overpass during demonstrations near Mineirao Stadium on Wednesday. Another protester also fell from an overpass as nearly 50,000 marched toward the stadium, but authorities said his injuries were not life-threatening. There were also reports that one protester was hit in the eye by a rubber bullet and that another was injured by a gas bomb allegedly thrown by police.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/protester-confirmed-dead-confederations-cup-173519708.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/protester-confirmed-dead-confederations-cup-173519708.html#)

**Chile**

**Students arrested in school raids after protests**

Chilean police have arrested 122 people, many of them teenagers, after raiding secondary schools that had been taken over by their students. The schools are due to be used as polling stations on Sunday when Chileans choose candidates for the presidential election in November. The occupation was part of a two-year campaign calling for education reforms. Police clashed with students in the capital Santiago on Wednesday night after a national protest on Wednesday. The violence was among the worst seen in Chile since the demonstrations began in 2011.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23088201#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23088201#)

**Colombia**

**Authorities say closer than ever to peace with rebels**

Colombia is closer than ever to a peace deal with Marxist FARC rebels after 10 rounds of talks to end their half-century-old conflict, the country's foreign minister said Thursday. "We are convinced that this is the moment in which Colombia has been the closest to peace," Maria Angela Holguin told reporters after meeting her Chilean counterpart in Santiago. Government and rebel negotiators struck a first deal on May 26 on land reform, resolving one of the thorniest issues on the negotiating table at the talks hosted by Cuba. The talks, which opened in November in the Cuban capital Havana, are the fourth attempt since the 1980s to bring peace to Colombia.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thesundaily.my/news/755458**](http://www.thesundaily.my/news/755458)

**Conflict leaves traumatised generations suffering in silence**

Some children have recurring nightmares and wet their beds, while their parents suffer depression, anxiety and panic disorders. These are common symptoms of mental illness that medical aid group MSF found among Colombians living in epicentres of the country’s nearly 50-year-old war, which has left generations of people mentally damaged by the conflict and the poverty it often spawns. In a report released on Tuesday, MSF said the impact of the conflict on people’s mental health is a problem that is largely invisible and unaccounted for. The violence the people surveyed experienced includes sexual violence and rape - both at the hands of relatives and by armed groups; they witnessed killings or lost family members who disappeared or were murdered; and they were forcibly displaced, taken hostage and caught in crossfire between warring factions.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130627042912-nifc3#**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130627042912-nifc3#)

WCAR

**CAR**

**'Severe humanitarian crisis' - relief agencies**

A dozen relief agencies in the Central African Republic on Thursday, June 27, warned that the whole population of the poor, landlocked nation faced a serious humanitarian crisis after a coup in March.

"The whole population of the Central African Republic, 4.6 million people, is affected by a severe humanitarian crisis in the wake of the coup d'etat and the political instability that followed it," said a statement signed notably by Action Against Hunger, Save the Children and Secours Catholique (Catholic Relief). "The United Nations estimates that the CAR needs about 97 million euros ($126 million) in aid, but donations received for the moment meet only 43 percent of these needs," the statement added. According to the non-governmental organizations, "more than 60,000 children and families are suffering from severe food shortages. More than 200,000 children and families have been forced in the past six months to flee their homes and need emergency shelter, food and medical care."

**AFP -** [**http://www.rappler.com/world/32365-humanitarian-crisis-central-african-republic#**](http://www.rappler.com/world/32365-humanitarian-crisis-central-african-republic#)

**Death toll in mining accident rises**

At least 57 miners where killed when a tunnel collapsed at a gold mine in CAR, the father of two of the victims told dpa Thursday. He said 64 miners were working in the pit in the village of Ndassima, 450km north-east of the capital Bangui, at the time of the incident Sunday. Rescuers were still searching for bodies.

**DPA -** [**http://www.thenewage.co.za/99715-1019-53-Death\_toll\_in\_Central\_African\_Republic\_mining\_accident\_rises**](http://www.thenewage.co.za/99715-1019-53-Death_toll_in_Central_African_Republic_mining_accident_rises)

**Seleka forces kill scores, burn villages - HRW**

Members of the Seleka rebel coalition, which overthrew President François Bozizé oftCAR on 24 March have targeted and killed at least 40 civilians, and intentionally destroyed 34 villages or towns since February. Human Rights Watch researchers in early June found extensive evidence of rampant abuses in largely rural areas outside the capital, Bangui. The UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in CAR (BINUCA) will submit a report on the situation to the UNSC before 30 June. The UNSC should consider options to reinforce peacekeeping outside of Bangui and adopt individual sanctions against Seleka leaders responsible for serious human rights violations.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/06/27/central-african-republic-seleka-forces-kill-scores-burn-villages#**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/06/27/central-african-republic-seleka-forces-kill-scores-burn-villages#)

**DR Congo**

**UN condemns Congo rapes; 1-year-old among victims - UNICEF mention**

The UN is raising the alarm about the recent rape of nine young girls in conflict-ridden eastern Congo, the youngest 18 months old. Two of the girls died, though their ages weren't released. Two officials say the girls were admitted to Panzi Hospital in South Kivu province over the past two months with serious internal wounds. UN special representative to Congo Roger Meece and UNICEF representative Barbara Bentein released their statement through UN deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey on Thursday. The officials said two suspects have been arrested, but they urged Congolese authorities to follow through with the "prosecution of all perpetrators involved in this despicable practice." The UN has said various armed groups are behind rapes in eastern Congo. The Congolese army and M23 rebels also have been accused of rapes.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/condemns-congo-rapes-year-victims-19511914**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/condemns-congo-rapes-year-victims-19511914)

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_69741.html#**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_69741.html#)

**Mali**

**Election commission doubtful over July 28 poll**

The president of Mali's election commission has raised doubts over the possibility of holding presidential elections on the announced date of July 28. "It will be extremely difficult to organise the first round of the presidential election on July 28," Mamadou Diamountani said late on Thursday. iamountani told AFP there were still "many challenges to overcome" before a nationwide vote, seen as a key step in returning the war-torn west African nation to stability, could take place. "Firstly, we have to recognise that the production of polling cards is way behind behind schedule. But this is the only document that allows the voter to vote. It isn't just an identity card, but also a voter registration card," he told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h78gV8TPGBgi1SERR2VyrX3n9fBg?docId=CNG.36b43abb63e7feca224e9826aa38301d.171**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h78gV8TPGBgi1SERR2VyrX3n9fBg?docId=CNG.36b43abb63e7feca224e9826aa38301d.171)

**Nigeria**

**Central Nigeria ethnic violence kills at least 48**

Gunmen have raided three villages in ethnically divided central Nigeria, leaving at least 48 people dead in what appeared to be reprisal attacks linked to cattle theft, the military said Friday. "Villages attacked were Karkashi, Bolgang and Magama," Captain Salisu Mustapha, spokesman for a military task force in the region, told AFP. Nigerian media quoted a local official saying more than 100 homes were also burnt, but the information could not be immediately confirmed. Residents said the attacks on Thursday followed incidents of cattle rustling.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iCuy7N9TkbodCO0ENqGLC2YH1vzQ?docId=CNG.36b43abb63e7feca224e9826aa38301d.181**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iCuy7N9TkbodCO0ENqGLC2YH1vzQ?docId=CNG.36b43abb63e7feca224e9826aa38301d.181)

**School attacks spur vigilante groups**

Youths in northern Nigeria’s Borno State, where many members of the radical Islamist group Boko Haram (BH) have been arrested in recent weeks, are increasingly joining vigilante gangs to pass on the identity of BH members to the military-police Joint Task Force (JTF) following a string of deadly attacks on schools, according to vigilante groups and residents of Borno State capital, Maiduguri. In the most recent high-profile attacks on 16 and 17 June, BH opened fire on the Government Secondary School in Damaturu, Yobe State, and Ansaruddeen private school in the Borno State capital Maiduguri, killing 16 students and two teachers, according to Lt-Col Sagir Musa, military spokesperson for Borno State.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98294/nigeria-school-attacks-spur-vigilante-groups#**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98294/nigeria-school-attacks-spur-vigilante-groups#)

This update is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a compilation of humanitarian, political and security-related media stories. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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