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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UN urging nations to accelerate anti-poverty work**

The UN secretary-general says that nations are falling short in meeting some of the key anti-poverty targets set for 2015. Ban is calling on nations to step up help in making primary education universal, ensure more women survive childbirth and have more children live past the age of 5. Ban says in a new report Monday at the start of a UNESCO month long session that nations already met some UN targets agreed in 2000 such as halving the proportion of people who live in extreme poverty and who lack access to safe drinking water. However, the council's president, Colombia's ambassador at the UN, Nestor Osorio Londono, said 1 billion people still live in “extreme poverty.”

**AP -** [**http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\_23574845/un-urging-nations-accelerate-anti-poverty-work#**](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23574845/un-urging-nations-accelerate-anti-poverty-work#)

**Record number of people with HIV now accessing antiretroviral treatment: UN – UNICEF mention**

Nearly 10 million people living with HIV were accessing antiretroviral treatment last year, says a new UN report, which notes that even more people can be reached with smart planning. Last year's figure represents the biggest increase from one year to another as numbers of people accessing antiretroviral treatment rose by 1.6 million from 2011 to 2012, according to the report, released today by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF. New guidelines from WHO, issued together with the report, give clear recommendations that people living with HIV should start antiretroviral therapy (ART) much earlier, and immediately in some instances.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45307&Cr=HIV&Cr1=AIDS#.UdEWRzvfDTo**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45307&Cr=HIV&Cr1=AIDS#.UdEWRzvfDTo)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130630040000-awtep/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130630040000-awtep/?source=hptop)

**DR Congo/Rwanda**

**Rwanda army officers aiding M23 rebels**

Military officers from Rwanda and DRC are fueling violence in the east despite pledges by the countries to foster peace, according to a confidential UN experts' report. A rebel group in eastern DRC continues to recruit fighters in Rwanda with the aid of sympathetic Rwandan military officers, the UN Group of Experts said in its interim report to the UNSC’s Congo sanctions committee. The UN Group of Experts also said elements of the DRC military have cooperated with a Rwandan rebel group against the Congolese M23 rebel group. The allegations are likely to displease Kigali and Kinshasa, which have signed a UN-backed peace agreement and pledged to cooperate on bringing peace and stability to eastern DRC.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-congo-democratic-un-idUSBRE95R0X720130628#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-congo-democratic-un-idUSBRE95R0X720130628#)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Kurdish protesters clash with security forces**

Police fired teargas and water cannon on Sunday to disperse thousands of protesters in Diyarbakir, the main city in Turkey's Kurdish-dominated southeast, during demonstrations across the country to pressure the government to carry out reforms. Turkey's main pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party, the BDP, had called for marches in at least three major cities, to launch a summer of protests against what it sees as a lack of commitment by Ankara to a peace process with Kurdish militants. The Kurdish unrest comes after weeks of unrelated anti-government protests in Istanbul, Ankara and other cities in which four people have died and thousands have been injured.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/30/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE95S0DE20130630**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/30/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE95S0DE20130630)

**Security forces fire on protest in southeast, one dead**

Turkish security forces killed one person and wounded ten when they fired on a group protesting against the construction of a new gendarmerie outpost in Kurdish-dominated southeastern Turkey. The incident, in Kayacik village in Diyarbakir province, appeared to be the most violent in the region since a ceasefire declaration in March in the conflict between PKK and the Turkish state. Hundreds marched in two central Istanbul districts to protest the event in Diyarbakir, a scene hardly imaginable in the city three weeks ago, before unprecedented anti-government demonstrations and riots in Istanbul. Those protests, unrelated to the 'Kurdish question', may have changed somewhat the attitude to protest in some sectors of society.

**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#)

**Ukraine**

**Polio fear at Europe’s door - UNICEF mention**

The Ukraine is facing a “real threat” of a return of polio as well as outbreaks of other serious diseases such as mumps, rubella and measles because of a combination of state inefficiency and public mistrust of vaccinations, health experts have said. The country has one of the lowest vaccine coverage rates in Europe, especially among children, and cases of some preventable diseases have soared in recent years. International health officials say they are working with the Ukrainian authorities to improve immunisation rates, but fear that there could be major disease outbreaks in the future and lives endangered unless progress is made on raising vaccination rates. A recent survey by UNICEF showed that a third of Ukrainian parents are against immunisations.

**IPS -** [**http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/polio-fear-at-europes-door/**](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/polio-fear-at-europes-door/)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Philippines accuses China of military buildup at sea**

The Philippines accused China on Sunday of a "massive" military buildup in the disputed South China Sea, warning at a regional security forum that the Asian giant's tactics were a threat to peace. The statement by Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario ensured that the growing row over rival claims to the strategically vital and potentially resource-rich sea would again be a key focus of the annual four-day Asia-Pacific talks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.rappler.com/world/32544-ph-china-military-south-china-sea-peace#**](http://www.rappler.com/world/32544-ph-china-military-south-china-sea-peace#)

**Malaysia ends operation to flush out Filipino gunmen in Sabah**

Malaysian authorities on Saturday announced that an operation to flush out armed Filipino militants from an eastern state was over, four months after the intruders landed on Borneo island sparking a security crisis. More than 200 armed followers of a self-styled sultan from the southern Philippines landed in the state of Sabah in February, reviving a centuries-old land claim by the long-defunct Sulu sultanate. Fighting between the militants and security forces – deemed Malaysia’s worst security crisis in recent years – killed at least 68 Filipinos and 10 Malaysian security personnel.

**AFP -** [**http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1271854/malaysia-ends-operation-flush-out-filipino-gunmen-sabah**](http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1271854/malaysia-ends-operation-flush-out-filipino-gunmen-sabah)

**UN urges Asia to ditch punitive laws to fight AIDS**

UN health officials urged Asian governments Monday to get rid of what they say are punitive laws that hinder the battle against HIV and AIDS by discriminating against high-risk groups and deterring them from seeking treatment. Steven Kraus, UNAIDS director for Asia and the Pacific, said laws that punish same-sex activities and impose harsh drug sentences have prompted a rise in transmissions in parts of Asia. ‘‘Punitive laws and practices that discriminate (against) people and prevent them from getting treatment are not helping,’’ Kraus said on the sidelines of the International AIDS Society meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/07/01/urges-asia-ditch-punitive-laws-fight-aids/sAkQ7Gy0JCRc3B2iDxGMbN/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/07/01/urges-asia-ditch-punitive-laws-fight-aids/sAkQ7Gy0JCRc3B2iDxGMbN/story.html)

**China**

**State media blames Syria rebels for Xinjiang violence**

Chinese state media on Monday blamed Syrian opposition forces in unusually specific finger pointing for training Muslim extremists responsible for the deadliest unrest in four years in China's far-western region of Xinjiang. China has traditionally blamed violence in Xinjiang, home to Muslim Uighurs, on Islamic separatists who want to establish an independent state of "East Turkestan." This appears to mark the first time Beijing has blamed a group in Syria and fits a common narrative of the government portraying Xinjiang's violence as coming from abroad, such as Pakistan, and not due to homegrown anger.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/us-china-xinjiang-idUSBRE96005I20130701**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/us-china-xinjiang-idUSBRE96005I20130701)

**Myanmar**

**Calm returns after religious clashes**

Myanmar says a tense calm has returned to western Rakhine state after rioters set four houses ablaze, the latest violence between Buddhists and minority Muslims. Deputy Information Minister Ye Htut said the alleged rape of a woman by a motorcycle taxi driver in the coastal town of Thandwe triggered the flare-up late Sunday. Police officer Nay Lin said Monday two suspects were arrested. The predominantly Buddhist nation has been grappling with violence targeting its minority Muslim community. Nearly 250 people have been killed and 140,000 others forced to flee their homes.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/calm-returns-myanmar-religious-clashes-19540153#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/calm-returns-myanmar-religious-clashes-19540153#)

**Philippines**

**Storm spares capital but strands many**

A tropical storm shifted and spared the Philippine capital Sunday but stranded thousands of commuters, toppled trees and knocked out power in outlying provinces. Forecasters had predicted that Tropical Storm Rumbia would hit the densely populated Manila metropolis early Sunday, sparking emergency preparations. Instead it veered away and struck Batangas province, about 80km south of Manila, then blew away toward the South China Sea, officials said. There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries from the storm, which packed sustained winds of 65km per hour and gusts of 80 kph.

**AP -** [**http://asiancorrespondent.com/110035/philippine-storm-spares-capital-but-strands-many/#**](http://asiancorrespondent.com/110035/philippine-storm-spares-capital-but-strands-many/#)

**Thailand**

**Eight soldiers killed in south**

Eight soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in the restive Thai south, an army spokesman said. Another four people -- two soldiers and two civilians -- were wounded in the blast in Krongpinang district of the Muslim-majority Yala province. The soldiers had been on duty all night at their base and were returning to their residence in a military truck when the roadside bomb went off.

**AFP -** [**http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/global-filipino/world/06/29/13/explosion-kills-8-soldiers-southern-thailand**](http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/global-filipino/world/06/29/13/explosion-kills-8-soldiers-southern-thailand)

**Viet Nam**

**Inmates riot over conditions at jail**

Rioting inmates seized control of a Vietnamese jail for several hours, taking the prison chief hostage in a protest demanding better treatment and conditions, state media said Monday. The disturbance started early Sunday at the Xuan Loc jail in Dong Nai province, about 40km north of Ho Chi Minh City. According to reports on dissident blogs, the jail holds a number of high-profile political prisoners. Some 50 prisoners "smashed the prison and took the jailor hostage", state-run Tien Phong newspaper reported. One policeman was slightly wounded in the fray, it added. Guards regained control of the prison several hours later and the prison chief was released.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thesundaily.my/news/757312#**](http://www.thesundaily.my/news/757312#)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Concern over planned relocation of refugees from Kenya to Somalia**

As plans to facilitate the return of hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees from neighbouring Kenya gather steam, serious doubts persist about whether conditions in Somalia are conducive to such a large-scale repatriation operation. There are some 600,000 Somali refugees in Kenya, according to government figures, more than two thirds of whom live in the sprawling, 20-year-old Dadaab complex in the east of the country. In recent years Kenya has repeatedly expressed a desire to ease its “refugee burden” and on 5 June President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Somali counterpart Hassan Sheikh Mohammed met in Nairobi to move the process forward. They agreed that a conference would be held in August to work out the modalities of repatriation and also to set up a tripartite committee with UNHCR.

**IRIN -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/concern-over-planned-relocation-refugees-kenya-somalia#**](http://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/concern-over-planned-relocation-refugees-kenya-somalia#)

**Somalia accuses Kenyan troops of backing militia**

Somalia's government is calling for a neutral force in the disputed port city of Kismayo, accusing Kenyan troops there of backing one militia against others. Somalia's information ministry said late Sunday the country wants a "more neutral force" in the city that is home to a contingent of militiamen and where five clan leaders have all declared themselves president. The statement is the strongest yet from a government whose officials have sometimes accused Kenya of taking sides in Kismayo, charges Kenya denies.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/somalia-accuses-kenyan-troops-backing-militia-19540673**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/somalia-accuses-kenyan-troops-backing-militia-19540673)

**Kenya**

**Four people killed in fresh Mandera violence**

Four people were killed in fresh violence in Mandera on Friday night, when militiamen from the Garre clan unleashed terror on their Degodia neighbours. Five others were seriously injured during the attack. According to police officers from the region, the gunmen also attempted to attack a General Service Unit camp in the area but they were repulsed. Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku says a disarmament exercise in the region is now inevitable to end the deadly clashes which have claimed over 100 people since January.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201306300012.html#**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201306300012.html#)

**Somalia**

**Polio outbreak in Somalia jeopardizes global eradication**

Polio has paralyzed 25 kids in Somalia and another six in a Kenyan refugee camp since early May, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative reported Wednesday. Before this outbreak, Somalia had not had a polio case in more than five years. There were only 223 polio cases around the world in 2012, the lowest ever recorded. Even in the remaining three endemic countries -- Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria -- polio was only showing up isolated in a few remote areas. This outbreak in Somalia could threaten that progress. The recent cases are probably just the tip of the iceberg, says WHO’s Sona Bari. "The last time we saw an outbreak in this part of the world it involved Yemen, most of the countries in the Horn of Africa, Sudan and led to about 700 cases," Bari says.

**AP -** [**http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/06/28/196615790/POLIO-SOMALIA**](http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/06/28/196615790/POLIO-SOMALIA)

**New clashes in Kismayo**

At least five people have been killed in clashes between rival Somali warlords fighting for control of the southern port city of Kismayo, residents said Saturday. Gunmen from the Ras Kamboni militia of former Islamist warlord Ahmed Madobe -- who last month appointed himself "president" of the southern Jubaland region -- battled on Friday forces loyal to Bare Hirale, a former Somali defense minister who also leads a powerful militia. Fighting on Thursday in Kismayo left at least seven dead.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88727-new-clashes-over-key-southern-somali-port#**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88727-new-clashes-over-key-southern-somali-port#)

**Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys: Al-Shabab leader questioned**

A top Somali Islamist, Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, has been transferred under armed guard from the airport in the capital Mogadishu following his arrival there on Saturday. He is now being questioned at a government intelligence base. He was moved after a fight broke out between government officials, members of the security forces and clan elders over what to do with him. He has been designated a terrorist by the UN and the US. He was held after fleeing fighting between factions of the Islamist group, al-Shabab, amid reports of a split in the group.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23120468**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23120468)

**Al-Shabaab kill two of their own chiefs**

Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab have killed two of their own top commanders, one with a $5 million US bounty on his head, the insurgents said Saturday. The pair killed are two co-founders of the Islamist group, including US-wanted Ibrahim Haji Jama Mead, better known by his nickname Al-Afghani -- "the Afghan", due to his training and fighting with Islamist guerrillas there. Washington offered a $5 million bounty for Afghani, who opposed the command of top Shebab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane. Shabaab gunmen also killed Abul Hamid Hashi Olhayi, named as another senior commander and co-founder of the group.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/29/somali-shebab-extremists-kill-two-their-own-chiefs-spokesman/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/29/somali-shebab-extremists-kill-two-their-own-chiefs-spokesman/)

**Uganda**

**29 killed in gas tanker explosion**

A car crashed into a moving gas tanker, sparking a fire that killed at least 29 people and left scores more badly burned, Ugandan police said on Sunday. Police spokesman Ibn Senkumbi said the gas tanker exploded after colliding with a passenger car late Saturday on the outskirts of the Ugandan capital, Kampala, and that investigators concluded the crash was an accident. Explosions involving moving gas tankers happen frequently in this poor East African country, often killing those who rush to the scene with plastic cans hoping to steal fuel.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/police-29-killed-uganda-gas-tanker-explosion-19535645#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/police-29-killed-uganda-gas-tanker-explosion-19535645#)

**Zimbabwe**

**Mugabe rules by decree as parliament dissolved**

President Robert Mugabe has become Zimbabwe's sole law-making authority until the next elections are held following the automatic dissolution of parliament, his justice minister told state media Sunday. The country's legislature was dissolved on Saturday after completing its five-year term. According to Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa this left veteran leader Mugabe as the only law-making power until new elections, for which no clear date has been set yet. Mugabe and his long-time rival PM Morgan Tsvangirai disagree over the date for upcoming polls that would end their power-sharing government. Mugabe unilaterally proclaimed 31 July for a presidential and parliamentary vote, but mediators have since pressured him to apply for a two-week delay.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gGixhsnLFnF\_O5ZWseI1juig4wkQ?docId=CNG.3a8c3f0fe62a81512883d2ee9517e8b4.881#**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gGixhsnLFnF_O5ZWseI1juig4wkQ?docId=CNG.3a8c3f0fe62a81512883d2ee9517e8b4.881#)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Scores of Syrians flee to Jordan as refugees’ ‘march of misery’ continues**

Dozens of Syrians fled to Jordan early Sunday as rising violence across southern Syria stranded hundreds along the shared border. According to the Jordan Armed Forces, some 270 Syrians crossed into Jordan early Sunday -- down from 700 on Saturday and well below a daily average that has hovered around 2,000 persons for most of this year. Meanwhile, hostilities in the area stretched into their second week, blocking off traditional crossing routes from southwestern Syria and reportedly forcing hundreds of refugees to take more arduous, eastern desert routes.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/scores-of-syrians-flee-to-jordan-as-refugees-march-of-misery-continues#**](http://jordantimes.com/scores-of-syrians-flee-to-jordan-as-refugees-march-of-misery-continues#)

**Hundreds of refugees refuse to leave Tunisia camp**

Several hundred people who had fled the 2011 Libya conflict refused Sunday to leave the Choucha refugee camp in southern Tunisia, which was due to be shut, blocking attempts to dismantle their tents. UNHCR said in March that it would close the camp on Sunday. Choucha opened in early 2011 to shelter those fleeing the conflict that toppled Libya's former dictator Moamer Gadhafi. Water and electricity supplies to the camp have been cut, but its remaining residents, mostly sub-Saharan Africans, are blocking any attempts to take their tents down.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-30/222063-hundreds-of-refugees-refuse-to-leave-tunisia-camp.ashx#axzz2Xm9bAs7Y#**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-30/222063-hundreds-of-refugees-refuse-to-leave-tunisia-camp.ashx#axzz2Xm9bAs7Y#)

**Egypt**

**Death toll in clashes rises to 9**

At least nine people were killed in Egypt over violent clashes between anti-and pro-president across Egypt till the early hours of Monday, while over 630 others were injured, state-TV reported. The first victim, a young man in his 20s, died in hospital after being seriously injured in an armed attack on protesters against controversial President Mohamed Morsi in Beni Suef, while three others were killed in clashes between Morsi's supporters and opponents in Assiut outside the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood's political wing, the ruling Freedom and Justice Party. Other five, including a child, were shot dead outside the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/01/c\_132502006.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/01/c_132502006.htm)

**Opposition sets Tuesday deadline for Morsi to go**

Egypt's opposition Tamarod movement which led nationwide protests against President Mohamed Morsi has given the Islamist leader a deadline of Tuesday to resign, threatening a campaign of civil disobedience if he stays. "We give Mohamed Morsi until 5:00 pm (1500 GMT) on Tuesday 2 July to leave power, allowing state institutions to prepare for early presidential elections," Tamarod said in a statement on its website. Otherwise, "Tuesday, 5:00 pm will be the beginning of a complete civil disobedience campaign," it said. In its statement, Tamarod called on the army, the police and the judiciary to stand with the protesters. It rejected presidential calls for dialogue, saying: "There is no way to accept any halfway measures.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88869-egypt-opposition-sets-tuesday-deadline-for-morsi-to-go**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/88869-egypt-opposition-sets-tuesday-deadline-for-morsi-to-go)

**Muslim Brotherhood vows action after HQ attacked**

Egypt's ruling Muslim Brotherhood said on Monday that armed men who ransacked its national headquarters had crossed a red line of violence, and the movement was considering action to defend itself. Gehad El-Haddad, spokesman of the Islamist movement, told Reuters in a telephone interview that Egyptians would not sit by and tolerate attacks on their institutions. "It's very dangerous for one entity in society to take up violence as a means of change because it may entice others to do so. The Muslim Brotherhood is a disciplined organization," he said, criticising the security forces for failing to protect the headquarters in Sunday's attack.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/egypt-protests-brotherhood-defense-idINDEE9600AR20130701**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/egypt-protests-brotherhood-defense-idINDEE9600AR20130701)

**US warns against travel after deadly clashes**

The US has warned Americans not to travel to Egypt and has told non-emergency diplomatic staff to leave, as clashes continue in the country. The state department also urged US nationals in Egypt "to remain alert." The warning came as at least three people - including a US citizen - died in clashes between supporters and opponents of President Mohammed Morsi. Earlier, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Egyptians to respect "universal principles of peaceful dialogue" amid growing concern over the tension between Mr Morsi's supporters and his opponents. In a warning on Friday, the US state department said it had "authorised the departure of a limited number of non-emergency employees and family members" from Egypt.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23109105#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23109105#)

**Iraq**

**Gunmen kill 8 anti-al-Qaida Sunni fighters**

Iraqi officials say gunmen have killed eight anti-al-Qaida Sunni militiamen north of the capital, Baghdad. A police officer says the men were snatched from their houses in the town of Mishahda and surrounding villages during the past two days. He added that their dead bodies were left in an orchard on Monday with gunshots wounds to their heads and chests. Some had their hands bound behind their backs. The town is 30km north of the capital.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-gunmen-kill-anti-al-qaida-sunni-fighters-19540530**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-gunmen-kill-anti-al-qaida-sunni-fighters-19540530)

**Death toll from violence up in June: UN**

The death toll among Iraqis from violence in June declined to 761 compared to May, the UN said on Monday. 554 civilians and 207 security troops were killed and 1,771 others were wounded, including 1,389 civilians and 382 security personnel, in terrorist and violent acts in June, a statement by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) showed on Monday. Baghdad is the worst-affected province with 950 civilian casualties (258 killed, 692 injured), followed respectively by Salahuddin, Nineveh, Diyala, Anbar, Kirkuk, Babil, Wasit Basra and Najaf, the statement said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c\_132502172.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c_132502172.htm)

**Sudan**

**Gunmen kill 6 people outside Nyala, advocacy group says**

An advocacy group said six people were killed this week in different attacks perpetrated by unidentified armed men near Nyala, South Darfur, and called on the peacekeepers to hold up their mandate. In a statement extended to Sudan Tribune on Friday, SUDO (UK) reported that unknown gunmen killed six IDPs and wounded five others in three attacks carried out this week on civilians outside Nyala. According to the independent group, four IDPs, moving to Dereige IDP camp from their farms in Um Dirbahia, were killed 15km North East of Nyala on 24 June. On 25 June, gunmen murdered two people outside their home in Korea area and Kass, which are inhabited by IDPs.

**Sunday Tribune -** [**http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47120#**](http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47120#)

**Syria**

**Activists say 6 killed in Homs, Idlib**

Government attacks on central and northern cities in Syria killed six people on Sunday, activists said, as the government announced that two years of conflict has cost the public sector $15 billion. President Bashar Assad's forces have been on the offensive in the central city of Homs, reclaiming some of the territory they lost to the rebels since the uprising began. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Syrian army warplanes pounded the old quarters of Homs, killing one woman and two children. Further north, in the suburbs of Idlib, three other civilians, including one woman and one child, were killed in army clashes with the rebels, the Observatory added. A city of about 1 million, Homs has been a flashpoint since the early days of the uprising, and many residents have sided with the rebels.

**AP -** [**http://www.wral.com/syria-activists-say-3-killed-in-central-city/12612316/**](http://www.wral.com/syria-activists-say-3-killed-in-central-city/12612316/)

**Yemen**

**Main oil export pipeline blown up**

Tribesmen blew up Yemen's main oil export pipeline on Sunday and it will likely be closed for a week, a local official said. Damage sustained during a previous attack on 27 June was fixed within hours, but repairs required after Sunday's explosion will take longer. Yemen, which relies on crude exports to bolster foreign currency reserves and finance up to 70% of government spending, has seen frequent bombings of the key pipeline in central Maarib province since early 2011.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-30/222053-yemens-main-oil-export-pipeline-blown-up.ashx#axzz2Xm9bAs7Y#**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jun-30/222053-yemens-main-oil-export-pipeline-blown-up.ashx#axzz2Xm9bAs7Y#)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Suicide attack in central Kabul thwarted: officials**

Afghan security forces shot dead a would-be suicide bomber in central Kabul on Monday outside an intelligence agency office and close to the EU mission, officials said. The attacker, who was wearing military uniform, was killed as he approached the National Directorate of Security (NDS) office early in the morning. The Afghan capital has been targeted regularly in recent weeks, with Taliban suicide attacks on the presidential palace, the Supreme Court, the airport and an international aid group. The incident took place in one of the most high-security areas of Kabul, close to the interior ministry and Chicken Street, a popular shopping area for foreigners until the insurgency worsened several years ago. The EU’s mission is nearby.

**AFP -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1022001/suicide-attack-in-central-kabul-thwarted-officials#**](http://dawn.com/news/1022001/suicide-attack-in-central-kabul-thwarted-officials#)

**Nearly 300 Afghan police killed in month**

Insurgents killed nearly 300 Afghan local and national police in the span of a month, the Interior Ministry said Monday, as casualties continue to mount among local forces now that NATO-led coalition troops have handed over responsibility for combat operations. Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi told reporters at a regular news conference that 299 police had been killed between 10 May to 13 June, and another 618 were wounded. In the same time span, Sediqqi said 753 militants had been killed in joint operations with the military and others and more than 300 arrested; 180 civilians were also killed. Sediqqi did not provide any comparison figures from previous months, but according to an Associated Press count, the violence this year is similar to its worst levels in nearly 12 years of war.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-police-commander-killed-attack-19540326**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-police-commander-killed-attack-19540326)

**180 Afghan civilians killed within month: official**

As many as 180 civilians had been killed within one month in militancy-hit Afghanistan, said the country's Interior Ministry spokesman on Monday. "Up to 180 civilians had been killed in month Jawza in Afghan calendar (22 May - 21 June) in attacks and bombings across the country," spokesman Seddeq Seddeqi told reporters in a joint press briefing. Without disclosing figures, he said several civilians were also wounded in security incidents.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c\_132501821.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c_132501821.htm)

**Bangladesh**

**‘Floating schools’ bring classrooms to stranded students – UNICEF mention**

In Bangladesh, annual flooding can disrupt school for hundreds of thousands of students. In some areas, roads are impassable during the rainy season from July to October, when rivers rise as much as 4 meters, or 12 feet. More than one million Bangladeshis could be displaced or affected by rising sea levels by 2050, according to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and flooding is likely to worsen in what is one of the world’s most densely populated countries, with 152 million people. Pascal Villeneuve, the UNICEF representative for Bangladesh, wrote in an e-mail, “Making sure that schools are resilient against natural disasters should be a priority for any disaster risk reduction preparedness and planning.” He added, “We know from experience, getting children back into a school environment as soon as possible is the best way to help them recover from the shock and destruction of a natural disaster.”

**NY Times -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/01/world/asia/floating-schools-in-bangladesh.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/01/world/asia/floating-schools-in-bangladesh.html?_r=0)

**India**

**'Thousands still missing' in Uttarakhand**

Nearly 3,000 people are still missing following floods and landslides which hit India's Uttarakhand state a fortnight ago, the chief minister of the state has said. More than 800 people are reported to have been killed so far but Vijay Bahuguna said the exact number of deaths may never be known.

Hundreds of people are still trapped in the Badrinath area, reports say. Some 100,000 people have already been evacuated from the flood-hit region. This year's early monsoon rains in the Uttarakhand region are believed to be the heaviest in 80 years.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23123795**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23123795)

**Policeman, rebel killed in Kashmir fighting**

A policeman and a militant were killed in a gunbattle in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Monday, as shops and businesses remained closed in the disputed region to protest the killing of two people by the army. Paramilitary spokesman Kishore Prasad said soldiers and police cordoned off a home in Mandoora village in southern Kashmir, acting on a report that suspected rebels were hiding there.

Prasad said the insurgents attacked troops with grenades and gunfire. Two soldiers were wounded in the gun battle. The killings led to massive anti-India protests and clashes that spread to nearby towns that left five government troops injured on Sunday.

**AP -** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/07/01/3479402/policeman-rebel-killed-in-indian.html**](http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/07/01/3479402/policeman-rebel-killed-in-indian.html)

**Pakistan**

**Death toll in attacks climbs to 52**

Police officials say the death toll from several weekend bombings in Pakistan has climbed to 52 after three victims died overnight from their wounds. Senior police officer Fayaz Sumbal said two people wounded in an attack on a Shiite Muslim mosque in the southwestern city of Quetta Sunday died Monday, raising the death toll from that incident to 30. The militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility. In the northwestern city of Peshawar, police officer Abid Khan said one person wounded in an attack on a paramilitary convoy Sunday died in the hospital, raising that death toll to 18. In the third Sunday incident, four Pakistani soldiers died when a roadside bomb hit their convoy.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/death-toll-pakistan-attacks-climbs-52-073120692.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/death-toll-pakistan-attacks-climbs-52-073120692.html#)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Clashes erupt outside football venue**

Protesters have clashed with police near Rio's Maracana stadium, minutes before the start of the Brazil-Spain final of the Confederations Cup, AFP reported. Al Jazeera's Adam Raney reporting from Rio de Janeiro, after the match had begun, said that clashes had died down. Earlier, some 5,000 people sang and danced to samba music as they marched towards the stadium, before being blocked by a police security cordon on Sunday. The marchers responded to calls on social media to turn out to back the national squad but also to protest the country's inadequate public services - a key gripe at the core of two weeks of demonstrations that have rocked the country. More than 11,000 police and troops were mobilised to ensure security for 78,000 fans at the Maracana arena as the curtain falls on a tournament hit by the unprecedented social unrest, with more than 1.5 million Brazilians taking to the streets nationwide over the past two weeks.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/06/20136302232802744.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/06/20136302232802744.html)

**Truckers call for 72-hour strike starting on 1 July**

Brazil's trucking union is calling for a 72-hour strike starting on 1 July. MUBC, as the most influential truckers union in Brazil is known, encouraged all sectors involved in transporting cargoes in the country to participate in a "passive protest" starting 6 a.m. on 1 July, in a written statement posted online. Threats of a general strike in Brazil, which saw its largest protests in 20 years last week over issues ranging from education to corruption in politics, are generally considered overblown, with pledges of participation waning.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/uk-brazil-trucks-strike-idUKBRE95R0YJ20130628#**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/uk-brazil-trucks-strike-idUKBRE95R0YJ20130628#)

**Haiti**

**UN peacekeeper, official injured in protests**

A UN peacekeeper and a Haitian government official have been critically wounded in protests in southern Haiti, media reported Sunday. The peacekeeper, a member of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah), was wounded Friday in the community of Acul, near the town of Petit-Goave, 68km southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince, as protesters demanding electricity service for their area clashed with the UN troops. Local authorities said the peacekeeper, who was critically injured, belonged to the UN Police (Unpol) force, but they did not know his nationality.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c\_124933557.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c_124933557.htm#)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**UN fears attacks from Liberia on Cote d’Ivoire**

UN leader Ban Ki-moon on Friday raised fears that followers of ousted Ivorian leader Laurent Gbagbo could step up attacks on the country from neighboring Liberia. Ban said in a report to the UNSC that the UN has indications that cross-border attacks are being planned with the help of Liberian mercenaries. Extra Ivorian government forces and UN peacekeepers have been sent to the border area in recent months following raids on villages in Cote d’Ivoire this year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gzwl-hMO\_cJjs5u55gyuo9dcgSjA?docId=CNG.84a46cfb70a988ad39c5bfa38755fb88.1d1#**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gzwl-hMO_cJjs5u55gyuo9dcgSjA?docId=CNG.84a46cfb70a988ad39c5bfa38755fb88.1d1#)

**Senegal detains former Chad dictator Habre**

Former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre was detained by Senegalese authorities on Sunday ahead of a trial on charges of crimes against humanity, judicial officials said. Habre is accused of war crimes and torture during his eight years in power in Chad, where rights groups say that some 40,000 people were killed under his rule. The dictator's trial, delayed for years by Senegal where he has lived since being ousted in 1990, will set a historic precedent as until now African leaders accused of atrocities have only been tried in international courts.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/senegal-detains-former-chad-dictator-habre/1692158.html#**](http://www.voanews.com/content/senegal-detains-former-chad-dictator-habre/1692158.html#)

**Burkina Faso**

**Police use tear gas at protests against Senate**

Police in Burkina Faso fired tear gas Saturday to disperse demonstrators protesting against the creation of a Senate, which they say will enable President Blaise Compaore to extend his 26-year rule. Brandishing posters that read "No to power for life" and "Enough is enough, go away", thousands of protestors descended into the streets of the capital Ouagadougou before jumping security barriers. Police responded with tear gas. A number of people were injured, according to opposition leader Zephirin Diabre, who did not give further details.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ipotnews.com/index.php?jdl=Burkina\_Faso\_police\_use\_tear\_gas\_at\_protests\_against\_Senate&level2=newsandopinion&level3=&level4=marketoverview&id=2229720#**](http://www.ipotnews.com/index.php?jdl=Burkina_Faso_police_use_tear_gas_at_protests_against_Senate&level2=newsandopinion&level3=&level4=marketoverview&id=2229720#)

**CAR**

**Six killed in clashes: police**

Clashes between ex-rebels and armed civilians killed six people in Bangui as anger mounted over abuses by CAR’s new rulers, police and medics said on Saturday. The violence broke out on Friday in a northern neighbourhood of the capital when a student believed to have been kidnapped by ex-rebels was found dead, a police official said on condition of anonymity. "Protesters, most of them youths, set up barricades and started burning tyres on the street to voice their anger over the discovery of the body of a student... who was abducted in broad daylight by Seleka forces," he said. The police source said the ex-rebels then "opened fire on the protesters with live bullets, killing one person." Shots were fired back at the Seleka men, killing two, the official said, adding that another three unidentified people were shot dead in the ensuing confusion. Twenty five people were also wounded.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hLao3A5R9kRjmvNIJGUbqUe9Wn2w?docId=CNG.33867cac2cb35056d7cb53e486c7581e.571#**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hLao3A5R9kRjmvNIJGUbqUe9Wn2w?docId=CNG.33867cac2cb35056d7cb53e486c7581e.571#)

**Minister sacked as tensions run high**

A CAR minister from the former rebel coalition that seized power in March was arrested and sacked on Sunday, as tensions mount in the troubled country. Water and forestry minister Mohamed Dhaffane is accused of buying arms and recruiting mercenaries, Communications Minister Gazam Betty told AFP, without giving further details of the allegations against him. The minister's brother Colonel Hamed Dhaffane dismissed the allegations against him and warned: "If he is not released we will set Bangui on fire." Relief agencies have also warned that the country is facing a serious humanitarian crisis because of the instability, with tens of thousands of people suffering from severe food shortages.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/30/central-africa-minister-sacked-as-tensions-run-high/#**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/30/central-africa-minister-sacked-as-tensions-run-high/#)

**Mali**

**UN peacekeepers take over from African troops**

UN soldiers will take over from African troops in Mali from Monday, making up the organisation's third-largest peacekeeping force by the end of the year. A 12,600-strong force will take over security duties from French troops who entered Mali in January to halt an Islamist advance and help the government re-establish its authority over the vast country. France is winding down its deployment from its peak of nearly 4,500 but is to keep up to 1,000 troops in Mali and they will maintain responsibility for military strikes against the Islamists. Rwandan General Jean-Bosco Kazura, formerly second in command of AU troops in Sudan's western Darfur region, will lead the force. The majority of his soldiers will be Africans already stationed in Mali but China has offered to supply more than 500 troops in what would be its biggest contribution to UN peacekeeping.

**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/un-peacekeepers-take-over-african-troops-mali?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29#**](http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/un-peacekeepers-take-over-african-troops-mali?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29#)

**People in north remain dependent on humanitarian aid**

Despite a still fragile security situation, ICRC and the Mali Red Cross are proceeding with an extensive programme of food aid for half a million people in the Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti areas. People in the northern part of the country continue to bear the brunt of the armed conflict. Many depend on humanitarian aid for their very survival. "Farmers, stockbreeders and fishermen have been dealt a severe blow by successive food crises and droughts, and by the armed conflict that began in January 2012," said Jean-Nicolas Marti, who heads ICRC's regional delegation for

Mali and Niger. "There have been almost no harvests, and reserve supplies have been exhausted. In these circumstances, it's hard to market food products or find something to eat without outside help."

**ICRC -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/people-north-remain-dependent-humanitarian-aid?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A%20ReliefwebUpdates%20%28ReliefWeb%20-%20Latest%20Updates%29#**](http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/people-north-remain-dependent-humanitarian-aid?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A%20ReliefwebUpdates%20%28ReliefWeb%20-%20Latest%20Updates%29#)

**UNHCR to help refugees participate in upcoming presidential elections**

With only one month to go before the presidential elections take place in Mali, the UN is helping neighbouring countries deal with refugees who will be voting outside their home country. According to UNHCR, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania host some 175,000 Malian refugees who fled the recent conflict there. Refugees eligible to vote in exile are people already registered in the Malian Administrative Civil Status Census, conducted in 2010.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45298&Cr=Mail&Cr1=#**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45298&Cr=Mail&Cr1=#)

**Nigeria**

**Clash kills 20 militants**

A military intelligence officer says soldiers have killed 20 Islamic extremists while two police officers died in an hours-long shootout near Maiduguri city in northeast Nigeria. An army officer, meanwhile, says that in another attack Thursday, militants killed one soldier and abducted three others in Potiskum.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-clash-kills-20-militants-nigeria-19528221#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-clash-kills-20-militants-nigeria-19528221#)

**Gunmen 'free' 175 prisoners in Nigeria jailbreak**

Gunmen shot dead two civilians and then used explosives to free 175 inmates from a prison in Nigeria's southern town of Akure overnight, a prison official said on Sunday. Boko Haram and al Qaeda-linked group Ansaru have been behind several prison raids in recent years. It was not clear whether they were behind this jail break at Olokuta prison in Ondo state or whether they had members held there. "The unknown gunmen numbering over 20 came at about midnight into the Olokuta prison through the main gate after using dynamite," Prison Comptroller Tunde Olayiwola told Reuters.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000087194&story\_title=gunmen-free-175-prisoners-in-nigeria-jailbreak#**](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000087194&story_title=gunmen-free-175-prisoners-in-nigeria-jailbreak#)

**Credible reports troops kill, torture, rape civilians in Islamic uprising - commission**

Nigeria’s National Human Rights Commission said Sunday it has credible reports security forces are killing, torturing, illegally detaining and raping civilians in a fight to halt an Islamic uprising in northeast Nigeria that has killed nearly 2,000 people since 2010. A report by the commission said troops retaliating against civilians have torched homes and tried to hide evidence of gross violations by disposing of bodies. In the most egregious case, where troops went on a rampage in several villages after a soldier was killed in mid-April in the fishing village of Baga, it quoted police as saying soldiers “started shooting indiscriminately at anybody in sight including domestic animals. This reaction resulted to loss of lives and massive destruction of properties.” The military said 36 people were killed, most of them extremist fighters. Witnesses told the AP at the time that some 187 civilians were killed.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/nigerian-commission-credible-reports-troops-kill-torture-rape-civilians-in-islamic-uprising/2013/06/29/70bff522-e11f-11e2-a0de-145598a7b2b7\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/nigerian-commission-credible-reports-troops-kill-torture-rape-civilians-in-islamic-uprising/2013/06/29/70bff522-e11f-11e2-a0de-145598a7b2b7_story.html)

**Oil thefts threaten economy, environment**

Oil thefts, long a problem in the Niger Delta, are growing at an ever-faster rate despite government officials and international companies offering increasingly dire warnings about the effect on Nigeria's crude production. Some 200,000 barrels a day -- representing about 10 percent of Nigeria's production -- are siphoned off pipelines crisscrossing the region. While drums end up leaking in villages and used to make crude kerosene and gasoline, the major thieves appear to belong to international criminal gangs that sell it into world markets, analysts and experts say. And the same Nigerian politicians and military leaders now targeting the small-scale local refineries that dot the delta likely are the ones benefiting from those massive thefts.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/oil-thefts-threaten-nigerias-economy-environment-19540492**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/oil-thefts-threaten-nigerias-economy-environment-19540492)

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