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GENERAL

**Iraq/Jordan/Turkey**

**Syrians blocked from fleeing war**

Iraqi, Jordanian, and Turkish border guards are pushing back tens of thousands of people trying to flee Syria. Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey have either closed numerous border crossings entirely or allowed only limited numbers of Syrians to cross, leaving tens of thousands stranded in dangerous conditions in Syria’s conflict-ridden border regions. Only Lebanon has an open border policy for Syrians fleeing the conflict. On June 25, 2013, airstrikes reportedly hit the Syrian Bab al-Salam camp for displaced Syrians near the Turkish border, where thousands of people have been stuck since August 2012 because Turkey refuses them entry. A Syrian activist who visited the camp on June 26 told Human

Rights Watch that the attacks injured seven people and residents. He said that the seven were allowed into Turkey for treatment but that the Turkish authorities had kept the nearby border crossing closed, despite protests from Syrians living in the Bab al-Salam camp.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/07/01/iraqjordanturkey-syrians-blocked-fleeing-war#**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/07/01/iraqjordanturkey-syrians-blocked-fleeing-war#)

CEE/CIS

**Georgia**

**Georgia to hold presidential election in late October**

The sitting Georgian president on Monday signed a decree to designate Oct. 27 of this year as the date for the presidential election of the South Caucasus country. The Georgian constitution stipulates that the presidential election should be held in October and the sitting president is entitled to choose a date no less than 60 days before the election. "The president of Georgia signed a decree today (Monday) and the relevant act has already been published," said presidential spokesperson Manana Manjgaladze. "The next presidential election will be held on Oct. 27, 2013. This is the last Sunday of October." Mikheil Saakashvili has served two full terms and cannot run for a third time.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/02/c\_132504785.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/02/c_132504785.htm#)

**Russia**

**Russian helicopter crash kills at least 19**

A helicopter packed with passengers crashed in Siberia on Tuesday, killing at least 19 of the 28 people aboard, Russia's civil aviation commission said. The Mi-8 aircraft operated by Polar Airlines caught fire after crashing in the Sakha region with 25 passengers and three crew on board, the Interstate Aviation Committee said. Citing a surviving crew member, the committee said on its website that 19 people were killed. State-run Itar-Tass later cited a regional government official as saying 23 people were killed and five survived, including a child. Sakha, also known as Yakutia, is a vast region stretching north of the Arctic circle and helicopters are frequently used to transport people to remote areas.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/02/us-russia-helicopter-crash-idUSBRE96107O20130702#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/02/us-russia-helicopter-crash-idUSBRE96107O20130702#)

EAPR

**Indonesia**

**Strong quake in Indonesia's Aceh province kills 1**

A strong earthquake struck Indonesia’s Aceh province on Tuesday, killing at least one person and leaving two others missing. Many houses were damaged and dozens of villagers were injured.

The magnitude-6.1 quake struck at a depth of just 10 kilometers (6 miles) and its epicenter was located 55 kilometers (34 miles) west of the town of Bireun on the western tip of Sumatra island, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The worst-hit area was the district of Bener Meriah, where the quake caused a landslide that killed a man and left his wife and a young boy missing, said Fauzi, an official of the local disaster agency. At least five people were reportedly injured and 10 houses were damaged in Takengon, the capital of Central Aceh district, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/07/02/strong-earthquake-hits-indonesia-aceh-province/mRkjLAbBbE21QcNzkFOWJP/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/07/02/strong-earthquake-hits-indonesia-aceh-province/mRkjLAbBbE21QcNzkFOWJP/story.html)

**Indonesia assembly bill raises fears of crackdown on freedoms**

Indonesia's parliament passed a bill on Tuesday curbing freedom to organise and assemble, prompting street protests and raising concerns among religious groups and labour unions that it will allow the government to silence opposition. Fifteen years after the downfall of dictator Suharto, Indonesia has embraced sweeping democratic reforms that have helped fuel average annual economic growth of 5 percent. These reforms are illustrated by daily demonstrations in the capital, Jakarta, protesting against everything from low wages and poor healthcare to corruption and lack of education. Under the bill, non-profit groups must abide by a long list of rules, including getting a government permit to operate and publicizing who their donors are.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130702111217-68ia5**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130702111217-68ia5)

**Myanmar**

**Rioters renew violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State**

Rioters torched two houses in a coastal town in Myanmar's Rakhine State in the latest violence between Buddhists and minority Muslims, a government spokesman said, but a resident said security forces had restored order on Monday. At least 237 people have been killed in Myanmar in religious violence over the past year and about 150,000 people have been displaced. Most of the victims were Muslim and the most deadly incidents happened in Rakhine State, where about 800,000 Rohingya Muslims live, according to the United Nations. In the latest flare-up, about 50 people gathered outside a police station in Thandwe on the west coast on Sunday after hearing a woman had been raped by

"a man of another religion", government spokesman Ye Htut said on his Facebook page. While the Thandwe riot was relatively minor, similar incidents in the past have led to larger and more deadly confrontations. The rioters set two homes on fire at about 7 p.m. (1230 GMT) after police asked the crowd to disperse.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/uk-myanmar-violence-idUKBRE96003K20130701#**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/uk-myanmar-violence-idUKBRE96003K20130701#)

ESAR

**Somalia**

**Somali govt wants Kenya defence forces Out of Kismayo, calls for neutral force**

Somali government wants Kenya Defence Forces to leave Kismayo and the forces be replaced by a more neutral one. This was after the KDF forces who are under Amisom apparently arrested a commander with the Somalia National Army (SNA) and were also involved in violence.€œAMISOM Section Two forces purposefully arrested government appointed division 43 SNA commander, Col Abbas Ibrahim Gurey," deputy minister for information Abdishakur Ali Mire said on Sunday. A statement from the Prime Minister's Media Office Mogadishu, Somalia said the government regretted the national loss of the three days fighting in Kismayo and called for the replacement of AMISOM Section Two forces to what the minister described as a more neutral African Union force.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201307020081.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201307020081.html)

MENA

**Egypt**

**UN fears fallout from Egypt turmoil**

The United Nations warned Monday that the result of Egypt's new deadly political turmoil will have a "significant impact" on the transformation of other countries in the Middle East. "The world is watching Egypt and what Egypt does with its transition will have a significant impact on other transition countries in the region," said deputy UN spokesperson Eduardo del Buey as the Egyptian military gave President Mohamed Morsi 48 hours to meet popular demands. "A stable and secure Egypt is crucial for regional stability and security," said the spokesman for UN leader Ban Ki-moon. The UN is closely following the new protests in which at least 16 people were killed on Sunday, del Buey added.

**AFP -** [**https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/mena/un-fears-fallout-from-egypt-turmoil#**](https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/mena/un-fears-fallout-from-egypt-turmoil#)

**Egypt opposition gives Morsi day to quit**

Egypt's opposition Monday gave Islamist Mohamed Morsi a day to quit or face civil disobedience after deadly protests demanded the country's first democratically elected president step down after just a year in office. "We give Mohamed Morsi until 5:00 pm (1500 GMT) on Tuesday July 2 to leave power, allowing state institutions to prepare for early presidential elections," the Tamarod movement said in a statement on its website. Otherwise, "Tuesday, 5:00 pm will be the beginning of a complete civil disobedience campaign." The health ministry said 16 people died in nationwide protests, including eight in clashes between supporters and opponents of Morsi outside the Cairo headquarters of the

Muslim Brotherhood movement from which he hails. Another three people died in the central province of Assiut and one each in Fayoum, Beni Sueif and Kafr el-Sheikh provinces.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hDqVSjSkEcJ-zeQtThaMm2hb4amg?docId=CNG.ce0613494dc2b055d0943c13ea7ff3c9.571#**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hDqVSjSkEcJ-zeQtThaMm2hb4amg?docId=CNG.ce0613494dc2b055d0943c13ea7ff3c9.571#)

**President Morsi rejects army ultimatum**

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi has rejected the army's 48-hour ultimatum to resolve the country's deadly crisis, saying it will only sow confusion. President Morsi insists he will continue with his own plans for national reconciliation, a presidential statement said early on Tuesday. The army has warned it will intervene if the government and its opponents fail to heed "the will of the people". However, it denies that the ultimatum amounts to a coup. Meanwhile, Egypt's state news agency Mena reported early on Tuesday that Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr had submitted his resignation.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23140212##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23140212##)

**Iraq**

**Suicide bomber targets Iraq Shia mosque killing 22**

At least 22 people have died in a suicide bomb attack targeting a Shia mosque in the Iraqi town of Muqdadiyah on Monday evening, police say. The attack came on the same day the UN mission in Iraq released figures indicating that over 2,500 Iraqis have died in violent attacks since April. Muqdadiyah is located 80km (50 miles) north-east of the capital, Baghdad. It is the latest in a series of deadly sectarian attacks to strike Iraq's Diyala province.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23139975##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23139975##)

**Deadly bombing hits Iraq football pitch**

At least 12 people have been killed in a blast while playing football in Baghdad, the latest in a series of attacks targeting Iraqis playing and watching the game. The attack on Sunday struck the Nahrawan neighbourhood of southeast Baghdad at 7:00 pm (1600 GMT) and wounded 25 others. Most of the casualties were boys under the age of 16, sources said. The blast is the latest in a string of attacks targeting football pitches and cafes broadcasting matches in this football-mad country where Iraqis closely follow not only the national team, but also an array of other international and club competitions.

**Al Jazeera - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/07/2013712539148942.html>**

**State of Palestine**

**Palestinian killed in clash with Israeli forces**

A Palestinian official says a Palestinian man has died of wounds sustained in an altercation with Israeli forces in the West Bank. Kamel Hamid, governor of Hebron district, says the man was shot and then hit by an Israeli jeep after throwing rocks at soldiers in the village of Dura. He says the Palestinian was taken to hospital where he died of his wounds. The Israeli military says several Palestinians threw rocks and rushed a military vehicle early on Tuesday morning and climbed on top of it. It says the soldiers called on them to get off and when the Palestinians ignored repeated warnings, troops deployed non-lethal riot control gear. The military says that when that failed to deter them, soldiers opened fire toward one of the Palestinians.

**AP -** [**http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\_23581901/palestinian-killed-clash-israeli-forces#**](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23581901/palestinian-killed-clash-israeli-forces#)

**Syria**

**Shelling kills 11 near Syrian capital**

Activists say Syrian troops have shelled a rebel-held suburb of Damascus, killing at least 11 people. The shelling on Kfar Batna Tuesday appeared to be part of an ongoing government offensive against contested and rebel-held areas around the capital. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the dead include two women and a child. Mohammed Saeed, an activist based in the nearby suburb of Douma, said the shelling began early Tuesday and lasted several hours, killing 13 people. Saeed said Kfar Batna is usually relatively quiet and shelters a large number of Syrians displaced from other, more tense suburbs of Damascus.

**AP -** [**https://bigstory.ap.org/article/activists-shelling-kills-11-near-syrian-capital**](https://bigstory.ap.org/article/activists-shelling-kills-11-near-syrian-capital)

**President al-Assad issues law on penalties for involving children in combat activities**

President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday issued law no. 11 for 2013 which adds a new article to the penal code to cover involving children in combat activities. The new article stipulates for a penalty of a sentence of penal labor for 10-20 years and a fine of SYP 1-3 million to individuals who recruit a child under 18 for the purpose of involving them in combat activities or other related activities. The sentence is extended to of penal labor for life if the recruitment results in a permanent disability to the child or of the child suffers sexual assault or is given narcotics or any mind-influencing substances, and the sentence is extended to the death penalty if the child dies. The updated penal code punishes everyone who recruits a child under 18 for the purposes for involving them in combat activities, carrying and transporting weapons or equipment or ammunition, planting explosions, standing watch at checkpoints or carrying out surveillance or reconnaissance, acting as a distraction or human shield, or assisting or serving the perpetrators in any way or form.

**SANA -** [**http://sana.sy/eng/21/2013/06/30/490101.htm**](http://sana.sy/eng/21/2013/06/30/490101.htm)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Taliban attack on NATO suppliers kills 8 in Kabul**

A Taliban truck bomb and gun attack killed eight people in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday, destroying the entrance to a NATO supply company's compound in the latest insurgent assault to shake peace efforts. Four Nepalese and one Romanian were among those killed in the bombing, which came after a series of recent Taliban suicide attacks targeting the Supreme Court, the airport, the presidency and a CIA office. The US has been pushing for peace talks as 100,000 NATO combat troops prepare to leave Afghanistan next year and local security forces take on the fight against the Islamist extremists. The group provides many NATO bases with food, water, fuel and other supplies, as well as maintaining military storage buildings and accommodation. Its compound is close to UN offices and a string of NATO bases.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jGj6DSXtMLCOZz8lYwarDxfHl2JQ?docId=CNG.70f1882e28153423656e7499adb11ace.111**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jGj6DSXtMLCOZz8lYwarDxfHl2JQ?docId=CNG.70f1882e28153423656e7499adb11ace.111)

**India**

**Flood-hit northern Indian state announces relief measures for residents**

More than two weeks after monsoon floods devastated Uttarakhand, killing thousands, the government of the northern Indian state Monday announced a slew of relief and rehabilitation measures mainly for local residents and businesses. The state's Chief Minister, Vijay Bahuguna, announced the measures ranging from free rations to waiving off power bills of residents and compensation, a day after he created a flutter by saying that the exact death toll in the natural

calamity may never be known. The Chief Minister said that no permission would be given in the future for construction of houses and hotels on the banks of a river, saying, "this will be strictly followed."

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c\_132502372.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/01/c_132502372.htm#)

**Indian army kills intruder carrying explosives near Kashmir**

Indian army has killed an intruder carrying explosives on LoC dividing Kashmir, officials said Tuesday. An Indian army spokesman said the intruder was killed Monday in the Saujiyan sector of frontier Poonch district, around 190 km southwest of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian- controlled Kashmir, while trying to move deep inside their part. "Our alert troops yesterday in Saujiyan sector observed suspicious movement in the vicinity of a post and challenged the intruder, following which a gunfight broke out and the intruder was killed," said R K Palta, Indian army spokesman. According to the spokesman, the intruder was carrying some explosives which were detonated after troopers fired at him. "As a result of firing by the troops, the explosive detonated leading to severe mutilation of the intruder," said Palta.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/02/c\_132505384.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/02/c_132505384.htm#)

**Maoist rebels kill four policemen in India**

A group of more than 50 Maoist guerrillas in eastern India ambushed a police patrol on Tuesday, killing the district police chief and three other officers, officials said. The rebels opened fire on vehicles carrying police superintendent Amarjeet Balihar in Dumka district in Jharkhand, an impoverished and densely forested state home to a large Maoist movement. "More than 50 armed Maoists were involved in the attack," deputy police superintendent Anil Srivastava told AFP from state capital Ranchi by telephone. "Two others have been injured," he said, adding that Balihar was the police chief of Pakur, one of the several Jharkhand districts where Maoists hold sway. On June 13, 100 leftwing guerrillas opened fire on a passenger train in the adjacent state of Bihar, killing one police officer and two passengers.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/89054-maoist-rebels-kill-four-policeman-in-india**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/89054-maoist-rebels-kill-four-policeman-in-india)

TACR

**Colombia**

**Colombian peace talks resume in Cuba amid tensions**

The Colombian government and leftist FARC rebels clashed on Monday over how to incorporate Latin America's oldest guerrilla movement into the democratic process, as they began the latest round of peace talks in Havana. The FARC reiterated its demand that Colombia's 2014 general election be postponed a year in favor of a constituent assembly to chart the country's political future. The government has repeatedly rejected the proposal and insisted a peace agreement must be reached by the end of 2013. Former vice president and lead government negotiator, Humberto de la Calle quickly dismissed the FARC proposal before Monday's talks began.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/colombia-peace-idINDEE9600J020130701#**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/07/01/colombia-peace-idINDEE9600J020130701#)

WCAR

**Mali**

**Islamist insurgency in Mali casts long shadow over Timbuktu**

Five months after French troops liberated Timbuktu from Islamist fighters, the ancient desert town, like much of northern Mali, is struggling to recover from the effects of the nine-month occupation as well as longer-term security and development problems. Few of the things a city needs in order to function – electricity, fuel, banks, marketplaces, and basic government services such as the town hall or judiciary – are fully up and running. There are other, less visible but equally pernicious problems, including a breakdown in the fabric of a citizenry long-famed, thanks to Timbuktu's location at the crossroads of the Sahara, for its cosmopolitan mix of cultures and ethnicities. Mali also contends with a chronic regional food security crisis that leaves millions of people teetering on the edge of catastrophe every time the rains fall.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/jul/01/islamist-insurgency-mali-timbuktu**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/jul/01/islamist-insurgency-mali-timbuktu)

**Mali president hails rebel MNLA decision to distribute voter cards in Kidal**

Mali's Interim President Dioncounda Traore hails the decision by the leaders of the separatist National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) to get involved in the distribution of voter cards in the northern region of Kidal. At the opening ceremony of the fifth session of the support group following the situation in Mali at the Bamako International Conference Center, the Malian president on Monday expressed thanks to "the MNLA leaders for accepting that Kidal is part of Mali and affirming that they are ready to support the government in the distribution of electoral documents in the region." "We want to reiterate to them our determination to continue with dialogue to find a lasting solution to the crisis whose persistence calls for an adequate solution," Traore added.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/02/c\_132505407.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/02/c_132505407.htm#)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria recaptures 54 prisoners after jailbreak –police**

Nigerian police have recaptured 54 of 175 prisoners who escaped from a jail in the southwest town of Akure after it was attacked by gunmen, a police spokesman said on Tuesday. Gunmen shot dead two civilians and then used explosives to raid the Olokuta prison in Ondo state on Sunday. "As of yesterday, police have apprehended 54 of the fleeing prisoners at various locations in Akure and neighbouring communities," police spokesman Wale Ogodo told Reuters. Islamist sect Boko Haram and al Qaeda-linked group Ansaru have been behind several prison raids in recent years. But Ogodo said the last prison break-out not the work of insurgents.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigeria-recaptures-54-prisoners-jailbreak-police-104523371.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigeria-recaptures-54-prisoners-jailbreak-police-104523371.html)

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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