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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Buddhist monks protest over Mahabodi attack**Local and foreign Buddhist monks protested outside the Indian High Commission in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Wednesday, demanding extra security for the Mahabodi shrine in India, which was the target of a bomb attack over the weekend. Monks from Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Vietnam, along with Sri Lankan monks, carried placards and marched to the High Commission. They demonstrated for over an hour before handing a petition to commission officials. The protestors called for a speedy inquiry into Sunday's bombing of the temple, that injured at least two monks. Hundreds of Buddhist monks also gathered outside the UN headquarters in Bangkok and Indian embassy to demand increased security at the shrine.   
**Gulf Times -** [**http://www.gulf-times.com/sri%20lanka/251/details/359038/buddhist-monks-protest-over-mahabodhi-attack**](http://www.gulf-times.com/sri%20lanka/251/details/359038/buddhist-monks-protest-over-mahabodhi-attack)

**Pope boosts Vatican laws against child abuse**

Pope Francis has bolstered criminal legislation against child abuse in the Vatican in an overhaul of laws that apply to the clergy and lay people who work in the city state. The Vatican said on Thursday in a statement that the pope's decree included "a broader definition of the category of crimes against minors" including child prostitution, sexual acts with children and child pornography. The Vatican says it continues to receive around 600 claims against abusive priests every year, many of them dating back to the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Sexual abuse by priests has often been coupled with cover-ups by their superiors, typically by transferring them to other parishes. The laws will come into force on September 1.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/07/2013711111823947983.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/07/2013711111823947983.html)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**No deal reached on Koreas industrial zone**

North and South Korea failed to reach agreement Wednesday on reopening a joint industrial estate built as a symbol of reconciliation, with Pyongyang accusing Seoul of insincerity, but they will meet again next week. The two sides separately agreed in principle to hold discussions about restarting family reunions, as they focused on dialogue after months of high military tensions.The Kaesong estate just north of the border opened in 2004 but shut down three months ago as relations approached crisis point. At a rare weekend meeting the two sides agreed in principle to reopen the estate, where 53,000 North Koreans worked in 123 Seoul-owned factories producing textiles or light industrial goods.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/2013710141032850187.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/2013710141032850187.html)

**China**

**At least 19 dead in western China flooding**Floodwaters surging through Himalayan foothills in western China have swept bridges, houses and hillsides into roiling brown rivers, leaving at least 19 people dead and dozens missing Thursday, as heavy rains buffet many parts of the country. Flooding in the western province of Sichuan was the worst in 50 years for some areas, with more than 100,000 people forced to evacuate. Nationwide, at least 1.6 million people have been affected since Sunday and thousands of homes damaged, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Nearly 100 people have been left dead or missing across the country, according to reports from various provinces, though the overall tally is likely to be higher.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/19-dead-western-china-flooding-19634522**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/19-dead-western-china-flooding-19634522)

**Indonesia  
Most wanted Indonesian militant urges jihad in video**Indonesia's most wanted Islamic militant has appeared in a video posted on the Internet delivering a tirade against the country's anti-terror police and urging "jihad", police said Wednesday. Santoso is the leader of a group called the Eastern Indonesia Mujahideen that hides out in the jungles around Poso on Sulawesi island, an area considered a hotbed of terrorism. In the six-minute video posted on YouTube, a man calling himself Syaikh Abu Wardah Santoso describes Detachment 88 -- the elite police anti-terror squad -- as "a real enemy, a real satan". The call to jihad came after raids across the country in May which in part targeted militants believed to be raising funds for Santoso's group. More than 20 suspected militants were killed or captured in the raids.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/most-wanted-indonesian/740362.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/most-wanted-indonesian/740362.html)

**Japan**

**Radioactive leak reaching Pacific, says Japan**

Japan's nuclear regulator says it believes radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima power station is leaking into the Pacific, and urged operators to act to prevent further contamination. Shunichi Tanaka, head of the new Nuclear Regulation Authority, said on Wednesday that he believed contamination of the sea had been continuing since the March 2011 catastrophe. "I think contamination of the sea is continuing to a greater or lesser extent," Tanaka said. "It was contaminated at the time of the accident, but I think it has been continuing for the last two years. Coming up with countermeasures against all possible scenarios is a top priority."

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/201371020235219819.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/201371020235219819.html)

**Myanmar**

**Continued support vital as Myanmar proceeds with transition process, says Ban**[Secretary-General](http://www.un.org/sg/) Ban Ki-moon today told a group of Myanmar's international partners that continued support will be vital for the country, which has taken some important steps in the past year, but faces a number of challenges, including national reconciliation and communal violence. “The Government and people of Myanmar need continued support to move towards a truly irreversible reform process and to deliver the dividends of peace and inclusive development,” Mr. Ban said in his opening [remarks](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sgspeeches/statments_full.asp?statID=1921#.Ud2-RaxnAYI) to the meeting in New York of the Group of Friends of Myanmar. He noted important steps taken in the past year, including the advancement of the reform process by the Parliament. At the same time, peace and reconciliation with armed ethnic groups remains a pressing priority.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45384&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45384&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1)**=**

**Muslim nations press UN over Myanmar Rohingyas**Islamic nations on Wednesday called on UN leader Ban Ki-moon to do more to halt the "tyranny" they say Muslims are enduring in Myanmar. Envoys to the UN from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries say the global body should pressure the Myanmar government over the troubles. Communal unrest last year in the western state of Rakhine left about 200 people dead and up to 140,000 displaced, mainly Rohingyas, minority Muslims who are rejected by many in Myanmar. Roble Olhaye, Djibouti's UN ambassador and head of the OIC group at UN, called the action against Rohingyas "ethnic cleansing".   
**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/muslim-nations-press-un/741172.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/muslim-nations-press-un/741172.html)

ESAR

**Somalia**

**‘Moment of Hope’ as UN to help 60,000 Somali refugees go home**Tens of thousands of Somali refugees have returned home as security in their homeland has improved, the United Nations said on Wednesday, saying it would support a further 60,000 refugees who are ready to go back. The number of refugees from Somalia - 1.1 million - is third to those from Afghanistan and Syria. Around half of them live in squalid, overcrowded camps in neighboring Kenya's arid north. Kenya is keen to repatriate them because it believes that militants have used refugee camps as bases to launch attacks since it sent soldiers to Somalia in 2011 to drive out Islamist rebels linked to al-Qaida. At least 20,000 Somalis have returned from neighboring countries this year, UNHCR said, although it warned that some returns may be temporary.   
**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/moment-of-hope-as-un-to-help-60000-somali-refugees-go-home/1699338.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/moment-of-hope-as-un-to-help-60000-somali-refugees-go-home/1699338.html)

**South Sudan**

**Heavy fighting in South Sudan’s Jonglei state**South Sudanese troops, rebels and rival ethnic militia forces are fighting in the troubled eastern state of Jonglei, aid workers and diplomats warned Wednesday. The latest outbreak of fighting in Pibor county in Jonglei region follows clashes in May, when soldiers and other gunmen looted United Nations and aid agency stores, including the only hospital for the wider region. South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, speaking Tuesday at celebrations to mark the nation's second anniversary of independence, said he was "extremely concerned about the continuing attacks and senseless killing of innocent civilians" in Pibor.   
**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan-republic/heavy-fighting-south-sudans-jonglei-state?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29**](http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan-republic/heavy-fighting-south-sudans-jonglei-state?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29)

**Uganda  
Food insecurity threatens 1.2 million in Uganda’s northeast**A deteriorating food security situation in Uganda's northeastern region of Karamoja could affect an estimated 1.2 million people, according to reports from the government and aid agencies. A June 2013 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, carried out by food security partners and led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), revealed that up to 975,000 people in the semi-arid region face "stressed" levels of food insecurity, while 234,000 more cannot meet their minimum food needs.  
**IRIN -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/food-insecurity-threatens-12-million-ugandas-northeast?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebHeadlines+%28ReliefWeb++-++Headlines%29**](http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/food-insecurity-threatens-12-million-ugandas-northeast?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebHeadlines+%28ReliefWeb++-++Headlines%29)

**Zimbabwe**

**Nine Tsvangirai party members attacked**

Nine supporters of Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai were injured during an attack Wednesday by suspected activists from veteran President Robert Mugabe's party, a party spokesman said. A party source said members were pasting campaign posters in Harare for their candidate Gift Chimanikire ahead of crucial general elections later this month when rival youth from Mugabe's ZANU-PF attacked them. The MDC condemned the attack.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thenewage.co.za/101151-1019-53-Nine\_Tsvangirai\_party\_members\_attacked\_in\_Zimbabwe**](http://www.thenewage.co.za/101151-1019-53-Nine_Tsvangirai_party_members_attacked_in_Zimbabwe)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Syrian rebel group claims responsibility for Beirut suburb blast**A little known Syrian rebel group has claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack that hit the southern suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday, wounding 53 people. It also claimed it was behind an attack on a Hezbollah convoy in eastern Lebanon on 28 June. The group, named the Special Forces 313 Brigade, uses the black, red, green and white colours of the flag of the Syrian opposition, and Islamic terminology. It describes itself as "an independent military formation, that fights in Syria for the victory of God's word." "Special units from the 313 Brigade staged an attack using a car bomb in the Bir al-Abed area of the southern suburbs," the group said on its Facebook page. "We warned again and again against (Hezbollah's) intervention in Syria," the brigade added. It cited "the failure of Lebanese politicians to control" the party as one of the reasons for the attack.  
**AFP -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/syrian-rebel-group-claims-responsibility-beirut-suburb-blast?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+%28Al+Akhbar+English%29**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/syrian-rebel-group-claims-responsibility-beirut-suburb-blast?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+%28Al+Akhbar+English%29)

**Egypt**

**White House says it will take time to rule if Mursi removal was coup**

The White House said on Wednesday it will take time to determine whether the Egyptian military's removal of President Mohamed Mursi constituted a coup, and called on the military to exercise restraint. "We are evaluating how the authorities are responding to and handling the current situation," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters when asked whether the U.S. administration was any closer to making a decision about how to describe Mursi's removal.

**Reuters -** [**http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCABRE9690R720130710**](http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCABRE9690R720130710)

**[Egypt PM says won't rule out Brotherhood role in new govt](http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/FullStoryFrame/C47C1178-8E43-4C27-ABD8-D73EA2D4D44C/2.1373533938.05150300.0.hrWr9kA" \t "Content)**   
Egypt's prime minister said Thursday he does not rule out posts for the Muslim Brotherhood in his cabinet if candidates are qualified, even as police cracked down on ousted president Mohamed Morsi's group. Hazem al-Beblawi, who was appointed on Tuesday, told AFP in a telephone interview he was still considering the makeup of his interim government after Morsi's overthrow in a popular military coup last week. "I don't look at political association... If someone is named from (the Brotherhood's) Freedom and Justice Party, if he is qualified for the post" he may be considered, Beblawi said. "I'm taking two criteria for the next government. Efficiency and credibility," he added.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/egypt-pm-says-won-t-rule/741458.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/egypt-pm-says-won-t-rule/741458.html)

**Egypt's Brotherhood vows to keep defying 'coup'**Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood says it will continue its "peaceful" resistance in defiance of the military's ouster of the country's Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi. The Brotherhood also says it's distancing itself from an attack on a senior army commander. A statement Thursday by the Islamist group, from which Morsi hails, says it will keep defying what it calls a "coup" that overthrew the country's first freely elected president and will not deviate from this position. The statement also denounced Wednesday's assassination attempt against Maj. Gen. Ahmed Wasfi in the Sinai town of Rafah, near the border with Gaza.   
**AP -** [**http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2021362568\_apmlegypt.html**](http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2021362568_apmlegypt.html)

**Egypt orders Brotherhood chief held, Morsi in 'safe place'**Egypt issued a warrant on Wednesday for the arrest of the Muslim Brotherhood's supreme leader Mohammed Badie in connection with deadly violence in Cairo, stoking Islamist anger over the army's ouster of president Mohamed Morsi. Badie and other senior Brotherhood leaders are wanted on suspicion of inciting Monday's violence outside the Republican Guard headquarters where Morsi supporters were demanding his reinstatement, judicial sources said. Morsi is currently being held in a "safe place, for his safety," foreign ministry spokesman Badr Abdelatty told reporters, adding: "He is not charged with anything up till now," he said. Thousands of Morsi supporters joined those camped out at the Rabaa al-Adawiya mosque in Cairo's Nasr City for a prayer in honour of those who died, and vowed to carry on protesting until Morsi's reinstatement.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130710/egypt-orders-brotherhood-chief-held-morsi-safe-place**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130710/egypt-orders-brotherhood-chief-held-morsi-safe-place)

**Egyptian women’s voices must be heard without threat of violence – UN official**A senior United Nations official today stressed the need to ensure women can make their voices heard in Egypt without fear of violence, stressing that their right to take part in the country's public life must be protected. The acting head of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([UN Women](http://unwomen.org)), Lakshmi Puri, stressed the role women have played in the political life of the country and called for zero tolerance against all forms of violence against women and girls after reports of rape during protests. “UN Women is concerned by reports of the high prevalence of sexual assaults against women in public spaces,” the agency said.   
**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45377&Cr=Egypt&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45377&Cr=Egypt&Cr1)

**Iraq**

**UN official says violence could spark civil war**

Violence in Iraq is on the rise and could lead towards civil war, the head of the UN human rights mission warned on Wednesday. "Iraq is really at a crossroads. I wouldn't say we're at a civil war yet, but the figures are not looking good," Francesco Motta told AFP. "Political deadlock in the country, a lack of national vision by a lot of politicians, the outside influences that are coming from the region, Syria and other players, is all having a destabilising effect," he said. A wave of attacks since the start of the month has left over 190 dead and more than 400 wounded, according to AFP figures based on security and medical sources.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/10/iraq-violence-could-spark-civil-war-un-official/ixzz2YfaACusC**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/10/iraq-violence-could-spark-civil-war-un-official/ixzz2YfaACusC)

**[Twin suicide bombs kill five policemen in west Iraq](http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/FullStoryFrame/C47C1178-8E43-4C27-ABD8-D73EA2D4D44C/2.1373533263.03d90300.0.vAFJgBA" \t "Content)**  
Two suicide bombers attacked a police station in western Iraq on Thursday, killing at least five policemen, police sources said. The first bomber opened fire on a checkpoint as he approached the police station, shooting two dead before entering the building and blowing himself up, killing a further three. The second assailant drove a car packed with explosives into the same police station in the city of Ramadi, 100 km west of the capital, in Iraq's Sunni heartland. No group immediately claimed responsibility for Thursday's attacks. Earlier on Thursday, at least one person was killed and 28 wounded when a parked car bomb exploded near the courthouse in central Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police and medics said.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Twin\_suicide\_bombs\_kill\_five\_policemen\_in\_west\_Iraq\_-\_police.html?cid=36430932**](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Twin_suicide_bombs_kill_five_policemen_in_west_Iraq_-_police.html?cid=36430932)

**Libya**

**Government takes back ministry from armed group**

The Libyan government has taken back control of its interior ministry from an armed group that had besieged the building for a week, an official said on Wednesday. The group had ordered staff to leave the ministry on 2 July and its men had remained there for days. They had closed off the compound's main entry with mounds of sand. One of them had said they would stay until authorities broke up an armed force, known as the Supreme Security Committee (SSC) which says it is backed by the interior ministry. The SSC is composed of militiamen - former rebel fighters from the 2011 war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi - who are often better armed and more powerful than the police.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/10/us-libya-ministry-idUSBRE9690O420130710**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/10/us-libya-ministry-idUSBRE9690O420130710)

**Syria**

**Syrian rebel sheikh calls for war on Assad’s Alawite heartland**An influential Islamist cleric turned rebel commander urged Syrian insurgents on Wednesday to focus their war on President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite heartland to create a "balance of terror" and help turn the tide of the conflict. "One has to concentrate on their strongholds and on their dwellings and their infrastructure. If (Alawites) continue living as they're doing in peace and safety while wedded to the regime they will not be affected. They will not think of abandoning Assad," said Islamist Sheikh Anas Ayrout. "(Alawites) are relaxed while areas that have slipped out of regime control are always under shelling (by government forces), always in pain," Ayrout said, referring to mainly Sunni areas of the north, center and east of the country.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/10/us-syria-crisis-coast-idUSBRE9690PU20130710?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/10/us-syria-crisis-coast-idUSBRE9690PU20130710?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Aleppo residents call for lifting of Syrian rebel siege**  
Dozens of Syrians in Aleppo have staged protests against a rebel siege of government-held areas in the city, residents have said. Rebels stopped supplies from entering western parts of the city in a bid to weaken the supply routes for President Bashar al-Assad's forces. Many Aleppo residents are angered by the rebel blockade, which has created shortages of basics such as bread and flour, and hiked up food prices in several neighbourhoods at the start of the fasting month of Ramadan.  
BBC - [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23261026#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23261026)  
  
**Yemen  
Government adopts new policy to help nearly 300,000 IDPs**  
After extensive consultations with stakeholders since mid-June, a national policy to protect citizens of Yemen in the stages of displacement was adopted by the Cabinet on 25 June. The policy seeks to prevent involuntary displacement, protect those who have been forced to flee, and help find long-term solutions to displacement. The new policy framework provides that an implementing and monitoring body will be formed under the Prime Minister's office. There are currently about 299,000 IDPs, the overwhelming majority of them living outside of camps.   
**UNHCR -** [**http://www.refworld.org/docid/51dd2d874.html**](http://www.refworld.org/docid/51dd2d874.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**  
[**Afghan Taliban reject Karzai, UN appeals for Ramadan ceasefire**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/575079/afghan-taliban-reject-karzai-un-appeals-for-ramazan-ceasefire/)The Afghan Taliban have rejected appeals made by Afghan President Hamid Karzai and a senior UN official for a ceasefire during Ramadan. They also vowed to increase attacks, claiming the “reward of fighting is much higher in the holy month.”   
**AFP -** [**http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/07/10/afghan\_taliban\_rejects\_international\_pleas\_for\_ramadan\_ceasefire**](http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2013/07/10/afghan_taliban_rejects_international_pleas_for_ramadan_ceasefire)

**Taliban shuts Doha HQ over 'broken promises'**

The Taliban has temporarily closed its office in Qatar, where it was hoped peace talks would begin with the US and Afghanistan, an insurgent official said on Tuesday, blaming "broken promises". The office opened on June 18 as the first move towards a possible peace deal after 12-years of fighting, but it enraged Afghan President Hamid Karzai by styling itself as an unofficial embassy for a government-in-exile. "We have temporarily closed the Qatar office due to broken promises," a Pakistan-based Taliban official, said on Tuesday. "We are not happy with the Americans, the Kabul government and all parties who have not been honest with us," he said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/07/201379221645539703.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/07/201379221645539703.html)

**India**

**Seven killed in Uttarakhand landslide**Seven family members have been killed in a landslide in India's Uttarakhand state, where floods and landslides left more than 800 dead last month. Officials say a house collapsed after a landslide in Chamoli district, leading to the deaths. Heavy rains continue in the state, where over 4,000 people are reported to be missing after the floods. This year's monsoon rains in Uttarakhand are believed to be the heaviest in 80 years.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23252923#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23252923)

**Pakistan  
President’s security chief killed**Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's security chief has been killed in a suspected suicide bomb attack in the volatile port city of Karachi as he stopped his armoured vehicle to buy some fruit, police said. "It seems that the suicide attacker walked up to Bilal Shaikh's vehicle and blew himself up outside the front passenger seat of the vehicle where Shaikh was seated," said police officer Raja Umar Khattab. A police escort was accompanying Shaikh's armoured vehicle when the attack took place.  
**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/2013710143218541754.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/2013710143218541754.html)[**New polio case in North Waziristan pushes FATA’s total to 11**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/575334/polio-new-case-in-north-waziristan-pushes-fatas-total-to-11/)   
Another child contracted polio in North Waziristan Agency (NWA), taking the national tally up to 19. Vaccination teams still find it difficult to access the agency, nearly 13 months after Taliban leader Hafiz Gul Bahadar imposed a ban on polio inoculation. The National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad confirmed the new case — an 11-month-old from Koli Khel in Khushali, Mir Ali. Both North and South Waziristan have been out-of-bounds for polio vaccination teams since June 2012, when Bahadur and Mullah Nazir imposed bans in the two agencies.

**Express Tribune -** [**http://tribune.com.pk/story/575334/polio-new-case-in-north-waziristan-pushes-fatas-total-to-11/**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/575334/polio-new-case-in-north-waziristan-pushes-fatas-total-to-11/)

**Motorcycle bomb kills two in north-west Pakistan**A bomb hidden in a parked motorbike exploded in Pakistan's restive north-western region, killing two civilians and injuring three more, police said Thursday. The bombing occurred in the suburbs of Kohat district, about 50 kilometers’ south-west of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, Ibrar Khan from the local police station said.   
**DPA -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/motorcycle-bomb-kills-two-in-pakistan-113071100464\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/motorcycle-bomb-kills-two-in-pakistan-113071100464_1.html)

TACR

**Across TACR**

**Chantal Weakens to Tropical Wave**

Tropical Storm Chantal skirted the southern coasts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti on Wednesday, losing force but heavy rain still posed a threat to some of the region's most vulnerable people. The storm did not make landfall on the island of Hispaniola shared by the two nations. But Chantal brought heavy rain to areas prone to flooding and landslides in places where many people live in flimsy homes of plywood and corrugated steel. In both countries, people fortified houses with tarps and wood and gathered supplies, largely ignoring warnings to leave their neighborhoods. A Dominican firefighter was killed in the community of Maimon, about 50 miles (85 kilometers) north of the capital, Santo Domingo, when he was swept away by floodwaters as he tried to clear a storm drain, said Luis Luna, director of the country's civil defense agency.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tropical-storm-chantal-weakens-tropical-wave-19632427**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tropical-storm-chantal-weakens-tropical-wave-19632427)

WCAR

**DR Congo**

**Peacekeepers shoot 4 in Congo firefight**

UN spokesman Martin Nesirky says about 30 unidentified assailants attacked an M23 rebel position early Wednesday near Goma in Congo's North Kivu province. Nesirky says the M23 rebels fought back. As the attackers retreated, they fired shots at the UN peacekeepers' post. Nesirky says that "in accordance with their rules of engagement, the peacekeepers fired warning shots before being forced to engage the attackers. In the firefight that ensued, four attackers were injured" and captured by the UN peacekeepers.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/07/10/un-peacekeepers-shoot-4-in-congo-firefight**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/07/10/un-peacekeepers-shoot-4-in-congo-firefight)  
**Guinea-Bissau  
UN: Killings in Guinea-Bissau must be investigated**Presidential and legislative elections planned for November in Guinea-Bissau can't be seen as free and fair unless progress is made on investigations of recent high-profile political killings, a senior U.N. official said. Ivan Simonovic, the U.N.'s assistant secretary-general for human rights, made his remarks in an interview Wednesday during the international body's first high-level human rights mission to Guinea-Bissau, which has been trapped in a cycle of instability since gaining independence from Portugal in 1974. In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Simonovic said continued impunity for the killings would send "a disastrous message" heading into a potentially fraught election season.  
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-killings-guinea-bissau-must-investigated-181322447.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-killings-guinea-bissau-must-investigated-181322447.html)

**Mali**

**UN envoy sees difficult Mali election campaign**

The UN envoy to the Sahel region on Wednesday warned of a difficult election campaign ahead in Mali, pointing in particular to the problem of ensuring refugees could vote and the need to improve security. Romano Prodi, a former European Commission president and former Italian prime minister, also said there had been no "definitive" conclusion to the military conflict since arms were still widely available. Prodi said the presidential vote was an important milestone but would be followed by even more complex parliamentary elections that would have to deal with demands for regional autonomy and other local issues. "The presidential election is a first step to a political solution," Prodi, who was appointed by the United Nations in October 2012, said at a conference on the Sahel.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90120-u-n-envoy-sees-difficult-mali-election-campaign**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90120-u-n-envoy-sees-difficult-mali-election-campaign) **Nigeria  
Nigeria says in peace talks with Boko Haram amid doubts**A Nigerian minister tasked with talking to Boko Haram claimed Wednesday that he was in ceasefire negotiations with the insurgents, but doubts persisted that a peace pact could be secured. There have been previous claims of peace talks between the government and the militants, but the negotiations, if they did indeed occur, failed to quell the violence. Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, a cabinet minister and chair of a presidential panel tasked with exploring an amnesty offer for insurgents, told journalists he was dealing with credible Boko Haram members, authorised to negotiate by insurgent leader Abubakar Shekau.   
**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-says-peace-talks-boko-haram-islamists-amid-doubts?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29**](http://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-says-peace-talks-boko-haram-islamists-amid-doubts?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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