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GENERAL

**DRC/Uganda  
60,000 Congolese flee to Uganda after rebel attack**More than 60,000 Congolese have fled to Uganda after a rebel attack on a town near the border in a continuing influx that is stretching humanitarian capacities, an aid group said Sunday. The Uganda Red Cross has already registered 41,000 refugees and that 20,000 more are yet to go through that process. The refugees are entering Uganda though the frontier district of Bundibugyo and many have found temporary shelter on the campuses of three schools there. The refugee influx continues three days after a Ugandan-led rebel group attacked Kamango town and killed some people on Thursday, according to Ugandan military officials who are concerned the rebels are about to launch a major assault on Ugandan territory.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/60000-congolese-flee-uganda-rebel-attack-19660660**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/60000-congolese-flee-uganda-rebel-attack-19660660)

**Across Regions**

**Seas may rise 2.3 metres per degree of global warming**

Sea levels could rise by 2.3 metres for each degree Celsius that global temperatures increase and they will remain high for centuries to come, according to a new study by the leading climate research institute, released on Monday. Anders Levermann said his study for the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research was the first to examine evidence from climate history and combine it with computer simulations of contributing factors to long-term sea-level increases: thermal expansion of oceans, the melting of mountain glaciers and the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. A UN panel of scientists, the IPCC, says heat-trapping gases from burning fossil fuels are nudging up temperatures.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130713141546-yfcx6**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130713141546-yfcx6)

CEE/CIS

**Russia/North Caucasus**

**Gunmen kill four policemen in Dagestan**Four policemen were killed in Russia's Dagestan region on Sunday when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car, local investigators said. The police officers were on their way back from a village of Burshi, some 100km south-west of regional capital Makhachkala, when their car was attacked by two assailants.  
**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/14/us-russia-dagestan-policemen-idUSBRE96D04920130714**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/14/us-russia-dagestan-policemen-idUSBRE96D04920130714)

**Authorities kill bodyguard of insurgent leader**

The bodyguard of Russia's most wanted insurgent was killed by security forces on Saturday. Russian authorities said Mikhail Musikhanov, killed along with another militant in a shootout in Ingushetia's Sunzha region, was the personal bodyguard of rebel leader Doku Umarov who has vowed to use "maximum force" to prevent President Vladimir Putin staging the 2014 Games in Sochi.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/us-russia-caucasus-ingushetia-idUSBRE96C06020130713**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/us-russia-caucasus-ingushetia-idUSBRE96C06020130713)

**Turkey**

**Police fire tear gas on Istanbul protesters**

Turkish police fired water cannon and tear gas on Saturday to disperse hundreds of protesters who gathered to march to Gezi Park, which has been at the heart of fierce unrest against PM Erdogan's rule. Saturday's demonstrations were triggered by discontent over a government-sponsored bill which stripped an architects' and engineers' association involved in the protests, the TMMOB, of its final approval authority on urban planning projects. The bill, passed to become law by parliament this week, is seen by the TMMOB and opposition party members as part of a government vendetta.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/us-turkey-protests-police-idUSBRE96C0AD20130713**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/us-turkey-protests-police-idUSBRE96C0AD20130713)

EAPR

**China**

**Death toll rises to 26 in North West downpours**

Three more people confirmed dead due to continuous rain that has lashed the city of Yan'an in northwest China's Shaanxi Province since July 3, bringing the death toll to 26, the Yan'an local government said. The downpours left 116 people injured and affected 260,000 others affected across five counties due to floods and landslides, (Xinhua) news agency quoted Yan'an's vice mayor Yang Xiao as saying. Yang said the city has not seen rain of this extent or duration since 1945, when authorities first began to record meteorological conditions.

**BNA -** [**http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/570743**](http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/570743)

**Myanmar**

**Government signs treaty with Wa ethnic group**

Myanmar's government and rebels from the ethnic Wa guerrilla group have reached a peace deal, state media has reported. A delegation was sent to the remote Wa region in Shan state, which borders China. The military and the United Wa State Army (UWSA) agreed to hold regular meetings and withdraw to positions they occupied before a recent stand-off. The move came as part of a government effort to reach agreements with all the country's ethnic groups. The UWSA is believed to be the largest minority group seeking autonomy, with a fighting force numbering as many as 30,000.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23300441**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23300441)

**Philippines**

**Government, rebels resolve key hurdle to peace deal**

The Philippine government has resolved a key hurdle in peace talks with Muslim rebels, it announced early Sunday, bringing it closer to ending an insurgency that has claimed tens of thousands of lives. After six days of negotiations, Manila said it struck a compromise on sharing local revenues with a Muslim self-rule area in the Mindanao region that is expected to be led by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The agreement paves the way for the two sides to decide how to divide up income from taxes and natural resources in the self-rule area. The talks are being hosted by Malaysia. The negotiations aim to create an autonomous region for the Muslim minority in Mindanao, the southern third of the mainly Catholic nation of 100 million.  
**AFP** - [**http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/359737/philippines-rebels-resolve-key-hurdle-to-peace-deal**](http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/359737/philippines-rebels-resolve-key-hurdle-to-peace-deal)

**UN concerned over tobacco fair in Manila**

WHO expressed concern Tuesday that the Philippines is encouraging smoking by hosting one of the world's largest tobacco trade shows, where city authorities lifted an indoor smoking ban for participants. The fair called ProTobEx ASIA will be held in Manila's Pasay city this week for the second consecutive year. Organizers said they chose the Philippines over other locations in Asia because of its vibrant tobacco industry and the "phenomenal" support of the Pasay city government, which has waived a ban on indoor smoking at the venue, the World Trade Center.  
**AP** - [**http://technews.tmcnet.com/news/2013/03/19/7003463.htm**](http://technews.tmcnet.com/news/2013/03/19/7003463.htm)

**Seven killed in clash in south**Two soldiers and five Muslim rebels were killed Saturday in a clash in the southern Philippines, an army spokesman said. The fighting occurred as negotiators for the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) met in Kuala Lumpur to discuss details of a preliminary peace deal signed in October. Four soldiers were wounded when the guerrillas strafed a vehicle transporting the troops in Guindulungan town in Maguindanao province,960 kilometres south of Manila.   
**DPA -** [**http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/7-killed-in-clash-in-southern-Philippines-30210338.html**](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/7-killed-in-clash-in-southern-Philippines-30210338.html)

ESAR

**Across ESAR  
Malawi rules out interim deal over lake dispute with Tanzania**

Malawi will not accept any interim deal on a disputed boundary on Lake Malawi with neighbouring Tanzania until the wrangle over sovereignty is settled, President Joyce Banda told mediators on Sunday. Malawi claims the entire northern half of the lake while Tanzania says it owns half of the northern area. The southern half is shared between Malawi and Mozambique. Banda said she would take the matter to the International Court of Justice if the group failed to resolve the issue by the end of September.  
**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/14/us-malawi-tanzania-lake-idUSBRE96D0B020130714**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/14/us-malawi-tanzania-lake-idUSBRE96D0B020130714)

**Burundi**

**Three killed in bar attack**Gunmen in Burundi killed three people and seriously wounded two others when they opened fire in a crowded bar and exploded a grenade overnight Saturday, a local government official said. Unknown gunmen burst into the busy bar in Karusi, 155km northeast of the capital Bujumbura, said provincial governor Richard Nzokirantevye. "They shot and killed the owner and a bartender… then they threw a grenade that exploded and seriously wounded three others, including local government officials," he said. Burundi has seen a resurgence of violence since disputed 2010 elections, but the authorities have dismissed rebels who have taken up arms again as "armed bandits."  
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130714/three-killed-burundi-bar-attack**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130714/three-killed-burundi-bar-attack)

**Madagascar**

**Candidates told to withdraw or face sanctions**

A regional mediator in Madagascar's political crisis, ex-Mozambican leader Joaquim Chissano, on Saturday warned three controversial presidential candidates to withdraw from running in the vote or face sanctions. The presidential election -- meant to end a four-year deadlock -- was postponed to 23 August after the trio's candidacies and funding problems derailed plans for a July vote. The candidacies have been internationally condemned and Chissano said the UNSC would be approached if they don't back down. If the trio stand their ground, International Contact Group on Madagascar will "strictly enforce" sanctions, warned Chissano whom the Southern African Community tasked as mediator in 2009 after the crisis.  
**AFP** -[**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/13/madagascar-candidates-told-to-withdraw-or-face-sanctions/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/13/madagascar-candidates-told-to-withdraw-or-face-sanctions/)

**Somalia  
Puntland unrest: 5 killed as people in Qardho burn election ballot boxes**At least 5 people have been killed, 10 others wounded in riots that has sparked in northeastern town of Qardho, the capital Karkaar region in eastern Somalia, Garsoornews Online reports. Clashes begun after local residents clashed with Puntland security forces carrying polling boxes who reached the town early on Sunday. Elsewhere, riots and demonstrations sparked in central town of Galkacyo, capital of Mudug region, as polling boxes intended to be transported to Buhodle town were burnt down by an angry mob against Puntland’s local council elections. Many of Mudug and Karkar regions’ locals are strongly opposing elections sat by president Farole’s ruling administration. Disputed local council elections were due to begin in many parts of Puntland on Monday; however, elections have been postponed due to the violence.  
**Garsoor News -** [**http://garsoornews.com/news/puntland-unrest-5-killed-as-people-in-qardho-burn-election-ballot-boxes/**](http://garsoornews.com/news/puntland-unrest-5-killed-as-people-in-qardho-burn-election-ballot-boxes/)

**Refugees nervous as Kenya eyes their return**

Dadaab, in northeast Kenya, is a grim place few would choose to call home, but many here are nervous about the growing pressure to leave this camp and return to their unstable homeland some last saw two decades ago.

Kenya, which hosts more than 600,000 Somali refugees, has made clear its ambition to send them back, and is in talks with the government in Mogadishu to start the move. Last month, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for "voluntary repatriation", with plans under way to work out how people can start moving back. But based on past experiences, refugees are worried.

**AFP -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/Somali-refugees-nervous-as-Kenya-eyes-their-return/-/979180/1914520/-/2carhhz/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/Somali-refugees-nervous-as-Kenya-eyes-their-return/-/979180/1914520/-/2carhhz/-/index.html)

**South Sudan**

**Over 200 wounded in clashes: UN**At least 200 people have been wounded in a week of bitter fighting in South Sudan's Jonglei state, the top UN humanitarian official in the country said Sunday. "Some 200 casualties have arrived in Manyabol", a remote village in the troubled eastern state of Jonglei, where militia gunmen from rival ethnic groups have been battling, UN humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan Tony Lanzer said in a statement.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/14/over-200-wounded-in-south-sudan-clashes-un/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/14/over-200-wounded-in-south-sudan-clashes-un/)

**Zimbabwe**

**Electoral body pledges quick results after election**Zimbabwe's electoral body on Saturday vowed to announce the results of the 31 July presidential polls, pitting veteran President Robert Mugabe against rival PM Morgan Tsvangirai, within five days. Under a new constitution, the ZEC must announce the results of the presidential election within five days of voting, but results for members of parliament are issued earlier, she said. On Sunday soldiers, police and essential services government staff on duty on election day cast their special vote ahead of the general public vote.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130713/zimbabwe-pledges-quick-results-after-election**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130713/zimbabwe-pledges-quick-results-after-election)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Thousands protest in Tunis against Morsi's ouster**

Several thousand people protested in central Tunis on Saturday against the Egyptian army's overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi. The protest was called by Tunisia's ruling Islamist Ennahda party. Speakers at the rally roundly denounced Egypt's Tamarod (Arabic for Rebellion) movement whose massive mobilisation of the people led to Morsi's eventual downfall. There was a heavy security presence in central Tunis for the authorised protest, after permission for a previous pro-Morsi demonstration organised by Ennahda was rejected last week.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130713/thousands-protest-tunis-against-morsis-ouster**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130713/thousands-protest-tunis-against-morsis-ouster)

**Bahrain**

**Bomb wounds four policemen: ministry**

A home-made bomb wounded four Bahraini policemen outside a Shiite village, the interior ministry said on Sunday, in the latest unrest to rock the Gulf state. The bomb was "planted by terrorists" near Janabiyah village, west of Manama, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official BNA news agency. The device was "remotely detonated," the Al-Ayam newspaper cited a security official it did not identify as saying. Police said later that security forces arrested "one terrorist" who had been involved in preparing the bomb that exploded late on Saturday. Earlier this month, a policeman was killed and two others wounded in what security officials said was a "terrorist" bombing outside a police station in the Shiite village of Sitra, south of the capital.  
**AFP** - [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130714/bahrain-bomb-wounds-4-policemen**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130714/bahrain-bomb-wounds-4-policemen)

**Opposition slams warning on Egypt-inspired demos**

Bahrain's Shiite-led opposition on Sunday slammed the Sunni-ruled government for warning people against joining protests that are planned for next month and named after Egypt's "Tamarod" rebellion movement. "The people have the right to protest peacefully" on 14 August to mark the 42nd anniversary of British forces pulling out of the Gulf kingdom, said the Al-Wefaq movement. Al-Wefaq urged the authorities not to use the demonstrations as a pretext to crackdown on the opposition and launch widespread arrests. In a statement issued late on Saturday, Bahrain's interior ministry warned anyone against taking part in "illegal demonstrations and activities that endanger security."   
**AFP** - [**https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/gulfnews/opposition-slams-bahrain-warning-on-egypt-inspired-demos**](https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/gulfnews/opposition-slams-bahrain-warning-on-egypt-inspired-demos)

**Egypt**

**ElBaradei sworn-in as vice president**

A leading reform advocate took office as Egypt's interim vice president Sunday, reinforcing the role in the new leadership of liberals who are strongly opposed to the deposed president's Muslim Brotherhood. Mohamed ElBaradei emerged as the top opposition leader in the campaign to oust President Mohammed Morsi. ElBaradei, 71, won a Nobel Peace Prize for his role as the head of the UN's International Atomic energy Agency. He returned home to assume a role in the anti-Mubarak uprising and emerged as one of the most visible leaders in the badly fractured Egyptian liberal and secular opposition to the Brotherhood and its government. ElBaradei will be tasked with handling Egypt's foreign relations, filling a position that did not exist under Morsi or previous governments.

**AP** - [**http://news.yahoo.com/elbaradei-sworn-egypts-vice-president-121206688.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/elbaradei-sworn-egypts-vice-president-121206688.html)

**Parliamentarians demand Morsi's return**

Islamist lawmakers in Egypt's disbanded upper house of parliament are demanding the return of the country's ousted president, and calling on other parliaments not to recognize the country's new army-appointed leadership. The demand was made Saturday by around 20 members of the Shura Council, which was Egypt's sole legislative house from the court-ordered dissolution of the lower house last year until the military's 3 July toppling of Mohammed Morsi. The lawmakers, who were attending a sit-in in the east of Cairo, accused the military of attempting to restore a "corrupt and dictatorial" regime.  
**AP** - [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Egyptian-parliamentarians-demand-Morsi-s-return-4663414.php**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Egyptian-parliamentarians-demand-Morsi-s-return-4663414.php)

**US envoy Burns in Cairo for talks**

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns is due to hold talks in Cairo later with leaders of Egypt's new military-backed government, reports Armenpress referring to BBC. It is the first visit by a senior US official since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi on 4 July. Washington says Mr Burns will urge "an end to all violence and a transition leading to an inclusive, democratically elected civilian government". Earlier Egypt's public prosecutor froze the assets of 14 Islamist leaders. The Muslim Brotherhood head Mohammed Badie and his deputy Khairat al-Shater are reported to be among them.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23310932**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23310932)

**Lebanon**

**Activists urge MPs to pass domestic violence law**

A number of activists protested in Riad al-Solh Square in Beirut Sunday, urging MPs to approve a draft law to protect women from domestic violence. The first draft law submitted by KAFA to the Parliament in 2010, calls for the criminalization of different forms of violence against women, the creation of specialized police units to follow up on transgressions and specify punishment for offenders, and the appointment of public prosecutors in each district to oversee matters relating to family violence and to allow women and their children to obtain restraining orders against their abusers.   
**The Daily Star** – [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2013/Jul-15/223671-activists-urge-mps-to-pass-domestic-violence-law.ashx#axzz2Z5Pkm5bf**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2013/Jul-15/223671-activists-urge-mps-to-pass-domestic-violence-law.ashx#axzz2Z5Pkm5bf)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Saudi Arabia warns pilgrims over coronavirus**

Health officials in Saudi Arabia have asked pilgrims visiting its holy sites to wear masks in crowded places to stop the spread of the MERS coronavirus. A list of requirements issued by the health ministry also tells elderly people or those with chronic diseases to postpone their pilgrimage. Thirty-eight people have died from the virus in Saudi Arabia. The MERS (Middle East respiratory-syndrome) coronavirus emerged in the Arabian peninsula in September 2012 and is part of a large family of viruses, which includes the common cold and SARS. The World Health Organization has so far confirmed of a total of 80 cases of infection, including 44 deaths worldwide.  
**BBC** - [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23298375**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23298375)

**Sudan**

**Seven peacekeepers killed in Darfur: UNAMID**

Seven peacekeepers have been killed in Sudan's Darfur region, the African Union-UN Mission said on Saturday, the worst-ever losses in the five-year history of the operation. UNAMID released few initial details of the incident, which it said happened near the peacekeepers' base at Manawashi, north of the South Darfur state capital Nyala. "Seven peacekeepers were killed and 17 were injured," said UNAMID's acting spokesman Christopher Cycmanick.   
**AFP** - [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iFmnXytN2efiZT\_MLl6KK2t4GFXA?docId=CNG.78f9fe8c2c3bca2b860fcbfb9a63e972.201**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iFmnXytN2efiZT_MLl6KK2t4GFXA?docId=CNG.78f9fe8c2c3bca2b860fcbfb9a63e972.201)

**Syria  
Car bomb near Damascus kills 13**   
Syrian activists say a car bomb north of the capital has killed at least 13 people, including 10 policemen. The Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights said Monday the blast struck overnight near the police headquarters in the town of Deir Atiyeh. The Observatory said a child was among the three civilians killed. Syria's state news agency confirmed the attack saying a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden car in a residential area of the town.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syrian-activists-car-bomb-damascus-kills-13-19666267**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syrian-activists-car-bomb-damascus-kills-13-19666267)

**UN envoy on children in war visits Syria**The UN Secretary General's special envoy for children and armed conflict, Leila Zerrougui, arrives in Syria on Monday for three days of meetings on the violence in the country. "Zerrougui will meet government officials, representatives of the United Nations and NGO partners," the UN said. Zerrougui's trip to Syria comes as part of a regional tour that includes stops in Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon to assess the plight of Syrian children and families affected by the conflict. "During her visit to the region, the Special Representative is working with governments, UN and NGO partners to highlight the needs and enhance the protection of children affected by the Syrian conflict," the UN said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90601-u-n-envoy-on-children-in-war-visits-syria**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90601-u-n-envoy-on-children-in-war-visits-syria)

**Pakistan Taliban set up camps in Syria, join anti-Assad war**The Pakistani Taliban have set up camps and sent hundreds of men to Syria to fight alongside rebels opposed to President Bashar al-Assad, militants said on Sunday, in a strategy aimed at cementing ties with al Qaeda's central leadership. On Sunday, Taliban commanders in Pakistan said they had also decided to join the cause, saying hundreds of fighters had gone to Syria to fight alongside their "Mujahedeen friends." "When our brothers needed our help, we sent hundreds of fighters along with our Arab friends," one senior commander told Reuters, adding that the group would soon issue videos of what he described as their victories in Syria.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/14/us-pakistan-syria-taliban-idUSBRE96D02V20130714**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/14/us-pakistan-syria-taliban-idUSBRE96D02V20130714)

**Yemen**

**2 soldiers killed in ambush**

A Yemeni security official says gunmen have killed two soldiers and wounded three in an ambush in a province where the military is battling al-Qaida. The official says the soldiers were attacked Saturday while traveling in a military vehicle in Marib province, east of the capital Sanaa. The army has gone after militants in Marib who are believed to be behind attacks on power lines that feed electricity to Sanaa. Local al-Qaida militants have also been carrying out attacks against security personnel.  
**AP** - [**http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/07/13/2-soldiers-killed-in-yemen-ambush**](http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/07/13/2-soldiers-killed-in-yemen-ambush)

**Government, UNICEF review efforts to encounter child recruitment**Yemen and UNICEF reviewed here on Saturday the government's efforts to encounter the child recruitment phenomenon according to international conventions and national laws. This came in a meeting gathered Human Rights Minister Houria Mashhour with UNICEF resident representative in Yemen Julien Harneis, who also discussed the importance of determining juvenile's age and to be one of the national dialogue's outcomes. The condition of the marginalized people in the country and their rights to a dignified life in addition to the right to access to clean water in rural areas were also touched on in the meeting.   
**Saba -** [**http://www.sabanews.net/en/news317436.htm**](http://www.sabanews.net/en/news317436.htm)

ROSA

**Bangladesh**

**Azam found guilty of Bangladesh war crimes**

A Bangladesh war crimes tribunal has found a top Islamist party leader guilty of masterminding atrocities during the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. Ghulam Azam, 90, the wartime head of the country's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, and now its spiritual leader, was found guilty on Monday by the International Crimes Tribunal on five charges including murder and torture. Deadly street violence erupted across Bangladesh before and after the judgement, handed down by the International Crimes Tribunal. Azam supporters clashed with Dhaka police, who fired rubber bullets at Jamaat activists armed with homemade bombs. Local media said that at least three Jamaat-e-Islami activists were killed in parts of Bangladesh on Monday.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/201371575422931245.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/201371575422931245.html)

**Bhutan**

**Opposition party scores upset win: local media**

Bhutan's opposition People's Democratic Party stormed to an upset victory Saturday in elections as voters gave their verdict on five years of democracy, a local news website reported. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) had won 30 seats in the vote for parliament while the incumbent Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) party had snared just 12 seats according to the website of Bhutan's national newspaper Kuensel. The polling marked only the second time in history that voters in the kingdom have elected a government.   
**AFP** - [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130713/bhutans-opposition-party-scores-upset-win-local-media**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130713/bhutans-opposition-party-scores-upset-win-local-media)

**Pakistan**

**First Pakistani women paratroopers make history**

Pakistan's first group of female paratroopers completed their training on Sunday, the military announced, hailing it as a "landmark achievement" for the conservative country. Women have limited opportunities in Pakistan's highly traditional, patriarchal society. The United Nations says only 40% of adult women are literate, and they are frequently the victims of violence and abuse.

**AFP** - [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/14/first-pakistani-women-paratroopers-make-history/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/14/first-pakistani-women-paratroopers-make-history/)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Brazilians accuse police of harsh crowd tactics**

All over Brazil, anger at police tactics has grown as law enforcement struggle to contain a wave of protests that have been raging since last month. Dozens of police and protesters have been injured in the sometimes violent demonstrations, with charges of excess violence lobbed against both sides. The nationwide protests, in fact, started with outrage over the violent police response to a small demonstration in the city of Sao Paulo over a 10-cent increase in bus and subway fares. The movement quickly spread to hundreds of cities, becoming the biggest seen here in a generation. The discontent grew to encompass grievances ranging from government corruption and high taxes to poor public schools and hospitals.

**AP** - [**http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\_23655264/brazilians-accuse-police-harsh-crowd-tactics**](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23655264/brazilians-accuse-police-harsh-crowd-tactics)

**Nicaragua**

**4 deaths, 1,543 infections of Dengue fever**

Dengue fever in Nicaragua has killed four people so far this year and infected another 1,543, Health Minister Sonia Castro said Thursday. The outbreak "is contained" with the largest concentration of infections registered in the capital Managua, Castro said at a press conference. The minister said an inter-institutional commission was working to control the outbreak, with the measures the government is implementing to fight the spread of the disease including the fumigation of schools, in coordination with the Ministry of Education. Across the central America, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras have also issued dengue alerts recently.  
**Xinhua** - [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2013-07/12/c\_132533710.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2013-07/12/c_132533710.htm)

WCAR

**DR Congo**

**M23 rebels battle army troops near Goma city**

Rebels and army forces are engaged in heavy fighting near the city of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The M23 rebels told the BBC that their hill positions had been bombarded most of the night by military planes. UN peacekeepers are on "maximum alert" to protect Goma as battles continue near the strategic city, the capital of North Kivu province. The frontline is in Mutaho, about 7km north of Goma. The UN said it was prepared to use "lethal force" to protect civilians if the M23 advanced towards Goma. The fighting comes as its new 3,000-strong intervention brigade to neutralise and disarm the rebels is approaching full strength.

**BBC** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23316609**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23316609)

**UN pens deal for unarmed surveillance drones over Congo**

UN peacekeepers in DRC will begin using unarmed drones on a trial basis to monitor its war-torn east, the head of peacekeeping operations said Sunday. UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous told Reuters a deal signed on Friday with an unnamed company would allow for a "complete picture of what is happening" on the ground. Thick forests, rugged terrain and few roads have complicated peacekeepers' efforts to control the area. "We have just signed a commercial contract for the UAVs, and I say UAVs, not drones, as they are unarmed," Ladsous said, referring to unmanned aerial vehicles.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-congo-un-20130714,0,3775618.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-congo-un-20130714,0,3775618.story)

**Peace talks stall, rebels say**

Peace talks in Kampala, Uganda, between DRC's government and M23 rebels have stalled again, according to the rebels, who report government team leaders have left the talks. The meetings began in December and broke down in March before the two sides restarted talks earlier this week. On Monday, there was some optimism that an agreement might be close, but on Friday the rebel delegation said there’s been little progress and that key DRC negotiators have left.   
**VoA** - [**http://www.voanews.com/content/dcr-peace-talks-stall-rebels-say/1700844.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/dcr-peace-talks-stall-rebels-say/1700844.html)

**Guinea**

**Five sentenced for life over attack on president**

Five people were sentenced to life in prison on Saturday for their role in a failed assassination attempt on Guinean President Alpha Conde two years ago, ending a trial opposition figures say has been at least partly politically motivated. A military officer and a senior opposition politician were among those convicted of plotting the July 2011 attack, which left Conde unscathed but two bodyguards dead and several others injured, underscoring Guinea's fragile transition to democracy after a 2008 coup and decades of misrule. Conde and his domestic rivals have just agreed on a date for legislative elections, ending months of political rows and street battles that have killed about 50 people and injured hundreds more.   
**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/us-guinea-attack-trial-idUSBRE96C08F20130713**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/us-guinea-attack-trial-idUSBRE96C08F20130713)

**Mali**

**Election should be respected even if 'imperfect': UN's Ban**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called for the results of Mali's upcoming election to be respected even if the vote is "imperfect", amid scepticism about the country's ability to stage the poll. "The results, even if the election is imperfect, must be respected by all parties," the UNSG told reporters in Paris, a day after attending France's national day celebrations.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/International/2013/Jul-15/223732-mali-election-should-be-respected-even-if-imperfect-uns-ban.ashx#axzz2Z6k6Q4T0**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/International/2013/Jul-15/223732-mali-election-should-be-respected-even-if-imperfect-uns-ban.ashx#axzz2Z6k6Q4T0)

**Nigeria**

**Military claims rescue of women, children held by Boko Haram**

Nigeria's military on Sunday claimed the rescue of women and children hostages from a Boko Haram stronghold, saying troops killed several insurgents during recent gun battles in the area. The Bulabulin Nganaram area of the northeastern city of Maiduguri, where the fighting occurred, is considered an enclave of the radical Islamist group. Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa said "many abducted women, children and girls were rescued and handed over to their families.” He mentioned "mass graves" found amid the bunkers, but provided no figures or details.  
**AFP** - [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jBIHapQZRSDIpi2Kf-3smMoRYRKA?docId=CNG.b51ffe6e7e314ef105c9153b3d38e7ba.381**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jBIHapQZRSDIpi2Kf-3smMoRYRKA?docId=CNG.b51ffe6e7e314ef105c9153b3d38e7ba.381)

**Nigerian extremist: Burn schools, kill teachers**

The leader of Nigeria's Boko Haram threatens to burn down more schools and kill teachers. But he denies his fighters are killing children. In a new video released Saturday, Abubakar Shekau said he "fully supports" attacks on several schools in northeastern Nigeria in recent weeks. UNICEF says at least 48 students and seven teachers have been killed since June, with some burned alive in a dormitory this month. In the video Shekau also denied he is negotiating a peace agreement with the Nigerian government.   
**AP** - [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-extremist-burn-schools-kill-teachers-113637113.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-extremist-burn-schools-kill-teachers-113637113.html)

**Guinea-Bissau**

**S.African firm says workers freed by kidnappers**

South African defence group Denel confirmed on Saturday that the last nine of 12 of its staff kidnapped in Guinea-Bissau two months ago had been freed. The Senegalese demining workers were part of a group snatched by a faction of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance on 4 May. The rebels released three women in the group later that month, keeping the men prisoner. Senegal's state news agency APS reported on Friday that the hostages had been handed over to a Guinea Bissau-based NGO and would be transferred to Senegalese officials.   
**Reuters** - [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/uk-senegal-kidnapping-southafrica-idUKBRE96C08B20130713**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/13/uk-senegal-kidnapping-southafrica-idUKBRE96C08B20130713)

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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