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GENERAL

**Syria/Turkey**

**Turkey sees new Syrian influx with 3,000 arrivals**

A record number of Syrians fled into Turkey Aug.12 after Syrian government forces bombed Raqqa province, a northern city 90 kilometers from Syria’s Turkey border. Almost 3,000 Syrians entered Turkey through the Akçakale border gate in the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa – the most in a single day. The Syrians were taken onto Turkish soil after being subjected to checks. Local authorities convened an emergency meeting after the influx to discuss a plan. The new arrivals will reportedly be sent to a new refugee camp built in Şanlıurfa’s Viranşehir district. Turkey currently hosts around 500,000 Syrian refugees inside and outside the camps.

**Daily News -** [**http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-sees-new-syrian-influx-with-3000-arrivals.aspx?pageid=238&nid=52398&newscatid=352#**](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-sees-new-syrian-influx-with-3000-arrivals.aspx?pageid=238&nid=52398&newscatid=352#)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Flash floods hit parts of Cambodia, killing seven people**

Flash floods have been hitting some parts of three provinces in Cambodia and have claimed seven lives so far, officials said Monday. Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet of National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), said northwestern Banteay Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces as well as northern Kampong Thom province have been flooding with heavy rains since last week and some 450 families have been evaluated to higher grounds. He added that some 230 houses and around 3,000 hectares of rice paddy have been submerged. Governor of Banteay Meanchey province Try Narin said that seven people including 3 children in the province have drowned since last week.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/12/c\_132624526.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/12/c_132624526.htm)

**Cambodia election committee confirms Hun Sen party win**

Cambodia's election committee has confirmed the ruling party's election win, despite opposition protests. The National Election Committee said PM Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) secured a narrow victory in the 28 July polls. But the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) said it would not accept the results unless allegations of electoral fraud were addressed. The poll results are the worst for the ruling CPP in over a decade. The election committee said the ruling party secured 3.2m votes to the opposition's 2.9m votes. The final allocation of seats for the 123-member parliament remains unclear and has yet to be announced.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23663005##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23663005##)

**China**

**Officials report new A(H7N9) infection in Huizhou City**

The National Health and Family Planning Commission, China notified WHO of a new laboratory-confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. This is the first new confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus since 20 July 2013. The patient is a woman from Huizhou, Guangdong Province. She became ill, was admitted to a local hospital and transferred to a hospital in Huizhou City. She is currently in a critical condition. To date, WHO has been informed of a total of 135 laboratory-confirmed human cases with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus including 44 deaths. Currently, four cases are hospitalised and 87 have been discharged.

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\_08\_11/en/index.html#**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_08_11/en/index.html#)

**Country continues alert on Typhoon Utor**

China's maritime authority on 13 August continued to issue an orange wave warning and blue storm tide warning regarding Utor, the 11th typhoon to hit China this year. According to the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center, Utor is expected to make landfall in south China's Guangdong Province on 14 August night. The center warned that, from noon on 13 August to noon on 14 August, there will be waves as high as 10 meters in the northern part of the South China Sea, and waves that will measure up to 5.5 meters in the western part of coastal areas in Guangdong. Utor is also expected to create sea waves ranging in height from 3.5 to 4.5 meters in the northeastern part of South China's Hainan province, and waves up to 4 meters high in the eastern part of Guangdong's coastal areas.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-08/13/c\_132626246.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-08/13/c_132626246.htm#)

**Myanmar**

**UN Human Rights envoy visits tense area**

A UN human rights envoy got a firsthand look Monday at sectarian tensions plaguing Myanmar, arriving in the state of Rakhine days after police opened fire on protesters seeking access to the body of a Rohingya Muslim fisherman. One person was killed and 10 others were wounded in the incident, Win Myaing, a government spokesman, said Monday. The Buddhist-majority nation, which only recently emerged from a half-century of isolation and military rule, has been grappling with religious violence for more than a year. More than 250 people have been killed, most of them minority Muslims, and another 140,000 have been forced to flee their homes. There are concerns that the unrest and the limited response by President Thein Sein's nominally civilian government could undermine the country's efforts at democratic reform. UN rapporteur Tomas Ojea Quintana is on an 11-day visit, including a stop in Rakhine, scene of some of the worst bloodshed. Tensions in the state's main city of Sittwe were high after the battered body of a fisherman washed ashore Friday, sparking rumors among Rohingya Muslims that he had been killed by police.

**AP-** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/human-rights-envoy-visits-tense-area-myanmar-19935331#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/human-rights-envoy-visits-tense-area-myanmar-19935331#)

**Philippines**

**Typhoon Utor displaces thousands in the Philippines**

Thousands of residents in the northern Philippines were left homeless after a powerful typhoon hit on Monday, officials say. At least two people died and 11 were missing in the wake of Typhoon Utor, the national disaster agency said. The storm made landfall in the north of the main island of Luzon early on Monday, bringing winds of up to 210kp/h (130 mph) and heavy rain. It is forecast to head towards southern China on Tuesday. Typhoon Utor displaced more than 100,000 people from three cities in 14 provinces, the national disaster agency said in a statement.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23678153**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23678153)

**Thailand**

**One killed, nine wounded in Thai south blast**

A policeman was killed and nine other people wounded Tuesday in a bomb attack in Thailand's insurgency-hit deep south, officials said, as authorities vowed talks with rebels will continue. The roadside bomb was detonated by suspected insurgents targeting police who had been called to the scene of a failed ambush on a senior local official in Sungai Padi district, Narathiwat province. A sergeant died on the way to hospital after the bomb -- hidden in a metal box and detonated by mobile phone -- exploded, a local police official told AFP. Three other officers were left in a critical condition, while a civilian was also wounded in the blast, the official added. Narathiwat is one of several violence-wracked provinces in the Muslim-majority Thai south, where some 5,700 people have been killed since the insurgency flared in 2004.

**AFP -** [**http://mysinchew.com/node/89869?tid=37#**](http://mysinchew.com/node/89869?tid=37#)

ESAR

**Namibia**

**UNICEF steps up support as Namibia grapples with worst drought in decades**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is scaling up support, including nutrition education and infant feeding activities, in Namibia, which is currently facing its worst drought in three decades. According to the country’s Directorate for Disaster Risk Management, all 13 regions have been affected by the drought, with major shortages of water, both for humans and animals, and food. UNICEF said an estimated 778,000 Namibians, a third of the population, are either severely or moderately food insecure. Families are selling assets such as livestock, reducing the number of meals eaten in a day, migrating to cities to find work. In May, the Government declared an emergency, and committed around $20 million to provide food and water to affected people. Aid agencies have also stepped in to help, UNICEF pointed out, but added that as numbers of affected communities continue to rise, funding gaps are widening. The agency needs $7.4 million to help an estimated 109,000 children under the age of 5 at risk of malnutrition.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45606&Cr=drought&Cr1=#**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45606&Cr=drought&Cr1=#)

**Uganda**

**5,000 children stranded as landslide hits Ugandan villages**

A landslide that hit a Ugandan village over the weekend left more than 5,000 children stranded. This was after destruction of their schools in the Bushiyi Sub-county, Bududa District. The structures of the schools were reduced to rubble after being hit by boulders. The landslides ravaged 16 villages in the sub-county making some schools that were not destroyed, inaccessible. One person died and 18 injured in the calamity that also destroyed crops. John Baptist Nambeshe, the Bududa District chairman says they have asked people to seek sanctuary in safer areas. He said the affected schools would remain closed and advised parents to register their children in schools that are located in safe areas.

**Daily Monitor -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/5000+children+stranded+as+landslide+hits+Ugandan+villages/-/979180/1945132/-/hyv2vkz/-/index.html#**](http://www.africareview.com/News/5000+children+stranded+as+landslide+hits+Ugandan+villages/-/979180/1945132/-/hyv2vkz/-/index.html#)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Egypt's Sinai militants fire rocket at Israel; blocked by defences**

An Egyptian militant group has claimed responsibility for firing a Grad rocket at the Israeli city of Eilat overnight, in retaliation for an alleged Israeli air raid last week. "Eilat and other Jewish cities will not enjoy security, tourism or economy, and Jews will pay a high price for the blood of the mujahideen," the Mujahideen Shura Council group said in a statement. According to the Jerusalem Post, Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system intercepted the rocket. Another group, called Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, said that four of its members were killed in an alleged Israeli drone attack in Egypt's restive Sinai region on Friday. However, Egyptian security sources said the four had been killed by an Egyptian helicopter as they were setting up a rocket launch pad. Militants have stepped up attacks, mainly targeting security forces in Sinai, since the army's overthrow of Islamist president Mohammed Morsi on July 3.

**DPA -** [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/egypts-sinai-militants-fire-rocket-at-israel-blocked-by-defences\_293093.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/egypts-sinai-militants-fire-rocket-at-israel-blocked-by-defences_293093.html)

**Israel approves another 900 settler homes**

Jerusalem's municipality has approved 942 new illegal settlement units in the Occupied East Jerusalem, a local official said, on the eve of the scheduled resumption of talks with the Palestinians. The units are in addition to the 1,200 settlement homes approved by Israel on Sunday, in a move that has angered the Palestinians and drawn criticism from the international community. "The Jerusalem municipality has approved a construction plan for 942 homes in Gilo," an existing illegal settlement in East Jerusalem, municipal councillor Yosef Pepe Alalu said. On Monday, US Secretary of State John Kerry said that the recent flap over illegal Israeli settlement announcements likely would not derail talks, which are scheduled to resume this week.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201381355044730911.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201381355044730911.html)

**Egypt**

**Egypt extends Mursi's detention by 15 days**

Egypt's judiciary said Monday it was extending ousted president Mohammed Mursi's detention for a further 15 days pending an investigation into his collaboration with Hamas. Mursi, overthrown by the military on July 3, was placed in detention on July 26 over his links with the Palestinian Islamist militant group, which rules neighboring Gaza. He is to be questioned on whether he collaborated with Hamas in attacks on police stations and prison breaks in early 2011, when Islamist and other political inmates escaped during a revolt against strongman Hosni Mubarak. The alleged crimes are being investigated by a Cairo court probing how inmates broke out of a prison in late January 2011.

**AFP -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/egypt-extends-mursis-detention-15-days?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+%28Al+Akhbar+English%29#**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/egypt-extends-mursis-detention-15-days?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+%28Al+Akhbar+English%29#)

**Iraq**

**Car bombings in Iraq kill 7 people**

Iraqi officials say two car bombs, one of which exploded near a Shiite mosque south of Baghdad, have killed 7 people. Police officials say the mosque bombing took place on Tuesday as worshippers were leaving the mosque in the town of Madain, about 20 kilometers (14 miles) south of Baghdad. They say five people were killed and 13 were wounded in that attack. Earlier in the day, two policemen were killed as they were trying to defuse a car bomb left on the road near the northern city of Kirkuk. Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to media.

**AP -** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Car-bombings-in-Iraq-kill-7-people-4727862.php**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Car-bombings-in-Iraq-kill-7-people-4727862.php)

**State of Palestine**

**Israel lists names of 26 Palestinians to be freed**

Israel on Monday published the names of 26 Palestinian prisoners, most of them held for deadly attacks, who are to be released this week as part of a US-brokered deal that led to a resumption of Mideast negotiations. Israelis and Palestinians are to launch talks in Jerusalem on Wednesday, following a preparatory round two weeks ago in Washington. The prisoner release, expected Tuesday, is part of an agreement to restart the talks after a five-year freeze. The fate of Palestinian prisoners stirs strong emotions on both sides, highlighting the competing narratives of their conflict. The upcoming release is particularly sensitive because many of those to be freed were involved in killing Israelis.

**AP-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/israel-lists-names-26-palestinians-freed-052000839.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/israel-lists-names-26-palestinians-freed-052000839.html#)

**Egypt**

**Islamists urge fresh Egypt demonstrations**

Supporters of deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi called for more mass demonstrations Tuesday in further defiance of a government ultimatum to dismantle their sprawling Cairo protest camps. The ongoing standoff with the army-backed interim government, which has threatened to disperse the two Cairo sit-ins where thousands of Islamists have been camped out for over a month, has caused worry among the international community, which fears fresh bloodshed. Since police issued last week an ultimatum to end the protests, Islamists have called for nationwide marches to demand the reinstatement of Morsi, Egypt's first democratically-elected civilian president, toppled and arrested by the military on July 3.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130813/islamists-urge-fresh-egypt-demonstrations**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130813/islamists-urge-fresh-egypt-demonstrations)

**Sudan**

**UN peacekeeper wounded in Darfur**

A UN peacekeeper was wounded in an ambush against a patrol in southeast Darfur amid heavy tribal fighting in the region, the UN reported. Unidentified assailants launched the assault against a patrol from the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in Ed Daein, East Darfur state, according to the UN deputy spokesperson. UNAMID has sent reinforcements to the site, the spokesperson said, citing a preliminary report.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h2\_01xVfgRZAfQvAXv2rFIdb5Uhw?docId=CNG.a57f9372a2a795950fdfd73e8d7694f2.af1&hl=en#**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h2_01xVfgRZAfQvAXv2rFIdb5Uhw?docId=CNG.a57f9372a2a795950fdfd73e8d7694f2.af1&hl=en#)

**Sudan flood victims reach 150,000 and rising, UN says**

The number of people affected by this month’s flooding in Sudan has climbed to around 150,000 and is expected to rise further, the United Nations said on Monday. More than half the victims, 84,000, are in the area around the capital Khartoum, said the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). “More rains are expected in the coming days and the estimated number of affected people is likely to rise further as rains continue and as more information becomes available,” OCHA said in a press release. OCHA’s latest estimate follows intense rains on Friday night and is based on information from the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and other agencies. Heavy rains and flash floods began on August 1, initially affecting almost 100,000 people in several states. At least 26,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed, according to initial estimates cited by OCHA.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/08/12/Sudan-flood-victims-hits-150-000-and-rising-U-N-says.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/08/12/Sudan-flood-victims-hits-150-000-and-rising-U-N-says.html)

**'Ethnic cleansing' accusations as East Darfur toll rises to 302**

Battles between the Rizeigat and Ma'alia tribes in East Darfur continued on Saturday and Sunday, bringing the total casualty toll to 302 thus far. Meanwhile, the Shura Council (heads of communities) of the Ma'alia tribe is accusing the Rizeigat of “ethnic cleansing and forced deportation.” Ahmed Mohamed Adud, East Darfur secretary-general, told Radio Dabanga that 106 members of the Rizegat tribe were killed and 111 were injured as of Sunday evening. He said Khartoum sent planes to transport the wounded from both tribes: the Rizeigat were transferred from Ed Daein to Nyala, South Darfur, and the Ma'alia from the nearby El Taweisha to the North Darfur localities of Klaimendo and El Fasher. Responding to rumours that a doctor was slaughtered in Nyala hospital on Sunday, Adub confirmed the killing but denied he was a doctor. “The Rizeigat killed a 'visitor' of the Gimr tribe who was taking photos of the dead and injured at the hospital.”

**Radio Dabanga -** [**http://www.radiodabanga.org/node/54566#**](http://www.radiodabanga.org/node/54566#)

**UN-contracted chopper ‘detained’ by Sudan rebels: UNAMID**

A helicopter and its crew contracted by peacekeepers in Sudan’s Darfur have been “detained” be rebels in the troubled region for 10 days, the mission said on Tuesday. The Mi-8 chopper was contracted by a Russian company and did not carry UN markings, Christopher Cycmanick, acting spokesman for the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), told AFP. One of the crew members is Sudanese while the other two are foreign, he said, without giving their nationality. The helicopter was delivering supplies to UNAMID locations in South Darfur state when a mechanical failure forced it to make an emergency landing on August 3, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) southeast of Nyala city, Cycmanick said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/August/international\_August271.xml&section=international**](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/August/international_August271.xml&section=international)

**Syria**

**Nearly 60 people dead in eastern fighting**

Nearly 60 Syrian soldiers and jihadists have been killed in three days of fighting in Deir Ezzor, the largest city in eastern Syria, where rebels have made advances, an NGO said Monday. At least 33 fighters of the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) and Al-Nusra Front have been killed since Saturday, according to the Syria Observatory for Human Rights. The group, which relies on a network of activists, doctors and lawyers on the ground, said 25 regime forces were also killed in the clashes. "The clashes are very intense, the fighters are using several tanks they have, while the army is shelling pockets" of jihadists, Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. **AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/12/nearly-60-dead-in-east-syria-fighting-ngo/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/12/nearly-60-dead-in-east-syria-fighting-ngo/)

**Syrian brain drain hits hospitals**

In the midst of Syria’s war, news of a doctor here or an engineer there leaving the country passes unnoticed. There are many reasons underscoring the departure of Syrian immigrant professionals: lack of security and jobs, assassinations, and support of the Syrian opposition. Syria’s scientific and medical cadre, according to an observer of the situation, has been exposed to "systematic elimination" by armed groups since the beginning of the crisis. This has led to the loss of some of the country’s best doctors and scientists. Most of them departed the country out of fear for their lives, but many also responded to the enticing temptations of the "enemies of Syria camp," especially the Gulf countries, the observer told Al-Akhbar.

**Al-Akhbar -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/syrian-brain-drain-hits-hospitals?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+(Al+Akhbar+English)#**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/syrian-brain-drain-hits-hospitals?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+(Al+Akhbar+English)#)

**Syria opposition proposes transition roadmap**

Syrian opposition activists, including National Coalition members, have drawn up a roadmap to achieve national reconciliation and justice for "all of Syria's victims," a statement said Tuesday. The roadmap is to be presented in full on Wednesday, in the presence of National Coalition chief Ahmed Jarba, but has not been officially endorsed by the key opposition group. "National reconciliation will be achieved through a long transitional justice process in which justice is assured for all of Syria's victims," said the statement outlining the roadmap. It comes amid reports of abuses carried out by both regime forces and rebel fighters in Syria's conflict.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Aug-13/227169-syrian-opposition-report-maps-post-assad-rule.ashx#axzz2bqIyopy2**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Aug-13/227169-syrian-opposition-report-maps-post-assad-rule.ashx#axzz2bqIyopy2)

**Tunisia**

**Warplanes strike jihadist positions**

Tunisian warplanes carried out airstrikes on the positions of al-Qaeda-affiliated rebels in the western border region where eight soldiers were killed in an ambush two weeks ago, media reports said. Fighter jets attacked the Jebel Sammama area of the Mount Chambi region, on the border with Algeria, the country's Mosaique FM radio and Business News website reported. Mosaique FM quoted unnamed military and medical sources as saying a number of suspected radicals had been killed in the strikes. The army began the offensive by pounding the area with artillery fire. Business News reported that three terrorist suspects had been killed in the operations. Mosaique FM reported that four insurgents had been killed and several injured on Sunday.

**DPA -** [**http://en.trend.az/regions/met/arabicr/2178684.html\**](http://en.trend.az/regions/met/arabicr/2178684.html\)

ROSA

**Across**

**India and Pakistan trade accusations over 'Kashmir violations'**

India and Pakistan are continuing to trade accusations over alleged breaches along the disputed border in Kashmir. On Tuesday morning, India accused Pakistan of firing on Indian posts in the Jammu region. On Monday, Pakistan summoned India's deputy high commissioner, saying a civilian had been killed on the border. It is the latest in a series of accusations and counter-accusations, with each side blaming the other for violations of the 2003 ceasefire. Last week, India accused the Pakistani army of killing five of its soldiers - something Pakistan denies.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23662911##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23662911##)

**Afghanistan**

**Cholera outbreak in northeast Afghanistan**

A provincial official says a cholera outbreak at a village in northeast Afghanistan has infected 1,492 people, killed a young woman and left another 100 in critical condition. Abdul Marouf Rasekh, a spokesman for the governor of Badakhshan province, said Tuesday that the outbreak began three days ago and was restricted to one town that has been quarantined. He says that the source of the infection has been traced to a single spring of water in the town of Chappa in the Darayen district. He adds that 36 of the most serious cases have been taken to a hospital in the provincial capital of Faizabad.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/08/13/cholera-outbreak-northeast-afghanistan/vLNNFuWCeppTFwteDrYU6N/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/08/13/cholera-outbreak-northeast-afghanistan/vLNNFuWCeppTFwteDrYU6N/story.html)

**High profile attacks on women in Afghanistan undermine rights campaign**

Taliban fighters have kidnapped a female parliamentarian who was travelling by car through Afghanistan's central Ghazni province with her children, a local police commander said on Tuesday, the latest in a string of high-profile, violent attacks on women. Successive, often deadly assaults on women working in state institutions are fuelling concern that hard-won women's rights promoted by the United States and its allies are eroding as international forces prepare to withdraw next year.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/13/uk-afghanistan-women-idUKBRE97C08I20130813**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/08/13/uk-afghanistan-women-idUKBRE97C08I20130813)

**Bangladesh**

**Arrest of human rights defender sends a chilling message**

The arrest of a prominent Bangladeshi human rights defender over the weekend is a clear violation of the right to freedom of expression, Amnesty International said. The organization has adopted Adilur Rahman Khan as a prisoner of conscience following his arrest without a warrant on 10 August. He is being detained solely for peacefully challenging alleged human rights violations by Bangladesh security forces. “Adilur Rahman Khan’s arrest sends a chilling message to government critics – if you raise concerns about human rights, there will be serious consequences. He must be released immediately and unconditionally,” said Abbas Faiz, Bangladesh researcher at Amnesty International.

**Amnesty International -** [**http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/bangladesh-arrest-human-rights-defender-sends-chilling-message-2013-08-12#**](http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/bangladesh-arrest-human-rights-defender-sends-chilling-message-2013-08-12#)

**Islamic party enforces shutdown in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh's largest Islamic party is enforcing a 48-hour general strike across the country to denounce a court decision that its registration with the Election Commission is invalid. On Aug. 1, a High Court panel ruled that the Jamaat-e-Islami party's regulations violate the constitutional provision of secularism by saying it wants to impose Sharia law. Because of the court decision the party could be barred from taking part in the next elections. TV stations report that party activists took to the streets, blocked roads and burned tires to enforce the shutdown across the country on Tuesday, the first day of the shutdown. No major violence was reported.

**AP -** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Islamic-party-enforces-shutdown-in-Bangladesh-4727582.php#**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Islamic-party-enforces-shutdown-in-Bangladesh-4727582.php#)

**Nepal**

**Landslide kills 6 in Nepal mountains**

A landslide swept away part of a village in northeastern Nepal, killing at least six people, an official said Tuesday. The landslide was triggered by heavy rainfall that struck Khimti village overnight while people were sleeping. At least half a dozen houses were swept away, police official Dipendra Jayswal said. Six others who were injured have been rushed to a local hospital and are being treated. Rescuers are searching for one person reporting missing. Rescuers were able to reach the village only Tuesday morning, and continuous rainfall was also making the rescue work difficult, the official said. Monsoon season begins in June in Nepal and ends in September.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/landslide-kills-nepal-mountains-19943297#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/landslide-kills-nepal-mountains-19943297#)

**Pakistan**

**First monsoon flooding tests preparedness in Pakistan**

Monsoon rain, which started at the end of June in Pakistan, has already killed 80 people and left over 81,000 displaced, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), despite improved preparedness plans being in place. Sialkot District, about 120km northeast of Lahore, saw torrential rain on 6 August: Drains almost immediately overflowed, villages were inundated, agricultural land damaged and residents left stranded as water surrounded homes. “People are being rescued in all the affected areas,” District Officer (coordination) Malik Abid Hussain Awan told IRIN, saying that 47 villages in the district had been affected. The government and relief agencies are on high alert this year after serious flooding in the last three years. Flooding in 2010 killed around 2,000 people.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98552/first-monsoon-flooding-tests-preparedness-in-pakistan#**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98552/first-monsoon-flooding-tests-preparedness-in-pakistan#)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Report maps three decades of violence**

A new study into violence in Brazil over the last 30 years suggests an array of social and economic factors have fuelled rising murder rates, with the growth of organized crime and the drug trade playing a peripheral role. The Latin American Studies Center's (Cebela) Map of Violence 2013 analyzed government figures on violent deaths over 30 years to look at where and why Brazilians kill each other, as well as how often. It found while the murder rate overall has changed little during the last ten years, within different states it has changed dramatically. Impunity and other institutional deficiencies have allowed a culture of violence to thrive, in which people murder each other for trivial reasons and go unpunished. Across the entire population, homicides have risen 132% during the last 30 years, -- from 11.5 per 100,000 people in 1980 to 27 per 100,000 in 2011. Among those aged between 14 and 25 the rate in 2011 was around double that -- 53 per 100,000.

**In Sight Crime -** [**http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/report-maps-three-decades-of-murders-in-brazil**](http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/report-maps-three-decades-of-murders-in-brazil)

**Peru**

**Shining Path leaders killed**

Two top commanders of Peru's Shining Path Maoist group are believed to have been killed in a clash with government troops in southeast Peru, President Ollanta Humala reported. Intelligence sources on the scene indicated that the group's number-two commander, Alejandro Borda Casafranca, known as "Comrade Alipio," was among the three dead, President Humala reported. Also killed, according to the intelligence, was Antonio Quispe Palomino, "Comrade Gabriel," the younger brother of the guerrilla group's leader, Victor Quispe Palomino. The attack would be the biggest blow to the rebel group and the drug-trafficking operations it controls since the military captured a top ideological leader last year. The third man was said to be a right-hand man to Borda Casafranca who goes by the nom de guerre "Comrade Alfonso," according to President Humala. The clash occurred in Llochegua, in the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro River Valley where Shining Path fighters work in partnership with cocaine traffickers.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/08/201381218124357220.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/08/201381218124357220.html#)

WCAR

**Mali**

**Keita wins Mali presidential vote after rival admits defeat**

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, an ex-prime minister with a reputation for firmness, won Mali's presidential election after his rival conceded defeat on Monday in a poll meant to draw a line under more than a year of turmoil. Keita, 68, universally known by his initials IBK, will now have access to $4 billion in international development aid to rebuild the West African country after a French military intervention in January ended Islamist rebels' occupation of the northern two-thirds of Mali. He inherits a broken nation and must move quickly to overhaul the armed forces, tackle ingrained graft and negotiate peace with northern Tuareg fighters clamoring for more autonomy from the southern capital

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/13/us-mali-election-idusbre97b0sg20130813#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/13/us-mali-election-idusbre97b0sg20130813#)

**AU monitor says Mali run-off vote went well**

The head of the African Union election monitoring mission says he was impressed with the organization and transparency of Mali’s presidential run-off election. Edem Kodjo says Malians showed in Sunday’s vote their readiness to rebuild the country after the coup d’état that enabled Islamic militants to seize some northern parts of the West African nation. “The Malian people have demonstrated a sort of willingness to go ahead of this very serious crisis. They did their best and there was no violence, no particular difficulties in the organization of the elections, a good deal of transparency and I think things went well,” said Kodjo.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/african-union-monitor-says-malu-run-off-vote-went-well/1728438.html#**](http://www.voanews.com/content/african-union-monitor-says-malu-run-off-vote-went-well/1728438.html#)

**Mauritania**

**Mauritanian opposition vows to boycott October elections**

A coalition of Mauritanian opposition parties said Monday it would boycott the October 12 elections as part of its bid to cause the vote to fail. The Coordination of Democratic Opposition (COD) grouping ten political parties "proclaim solemnly the decision to boycott this electoral masquerade." It also stated its "firm will to use all legitimate means to cause (the elections) to fail." Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz seized power in a 2008 coup and was elected a year later, but the COD has never accepted his rule as legitimate and is demanding he make way for a neutral leader to administer the vote.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hAzth8\_QLkesb9vlUed3WpvhCbXg?docId=CNG.a57f9372a2a795950fdfd73e8d7694f2.b91#**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hAzth8_QLkesb9vlUed3WpvhCbXg?docId=CNG.a57f9372a2a795950fdfd73e8d7694f2.b91#)

**Nigeria**

**Insurgents kill 56 people in mosque, village**

Suspected extremists have stormed a mosque and shot dead 44 worshippers as well as 12 other people in a nearby village in the northeast. The attacks at the weekend were believed to be in revenge over citizen vigilante groups forming to help the military battle extremist group Boko Haram. "Gunmen believed to be Boko Haram members entered the mosque and opened fire on Muslim worshippers, killing 44," a senior government official reported about the attack in Konduga. A local official reported that suspected Boko Haram members also raided Ngom village in the nearby Mafa district and shot dead 12 people. He said they were shot at their homes. Some residents spoke of the

attackers in Konduga arriving wearing army camouflage, a tactic they have used in the past to disguise themselves, though those details had not been officially confirmed.

**AFP -**  [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130812-insurgents-kill-56-nigeria-mosque-village-sources#**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130812-insurgents-kill-56-nigeria-mosque-village-sources#)

**Flood destroys homes in northern Kano**

Officials say floods from heavy rains destroyed up to 400 homes in Nigeria's biggest northern city of Kano. Drains and deep culverts chronically filled with uncollected garbage flooded and blocked several roads after about nine hours of rainfall Saturday and Sunday. The flooding also unearthed some 20 corpses at the city's main cemetery. Ibrahim Musa Giginyu said Monday his seven family members would have drowned but he managed to get help Sunday when "I found my entire family floating in water." Many Nigerians cannot swim. Disaster manager Kassim Musa of the state fire service said more than 100 homes collapsed in the raging waters. But Ali Bashir of the State Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Agency said 408 homes were destroyed in Kano city and another 26 outside the metropolis.

**AP -** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/08/12/3557593/nigeria-flood-destroys-homes-in.html#**](http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/08/12/3557593/nigeria-flood-destroys-homes-in.html#)

**Togo**

**Togo court confirms ruling party win in parliamentary polls**

Togo's constitutional court on Monday validated results from last month's parliamentary polls giving the ruling party a two-thirds majority and allowing President Faure Gnassingbe's family to maintain its decades-long grip on power. The court's ruling finalises the results from the July 25 polls and saw it reject five appeals, including those alleging fraud and intimidation. Gnassingbe's UNIR party won 62 of 91 seats in the vote, while the closest opposition was the Let's Save Togo coalition with 19 seats.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Togo-court-confirms-ruling-party-win-in-parliamentary-polls/-/1066/1945626/-/13hjle9z/-/index.html#**](http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/Togo-court-confirms-ruling-party-win-in-parliamentary-polls/-/1066/1945626/-/13hjle9z/-/index.html#)

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