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GENERAL

**Across regions**

**Seven African countries cut child HIV infections by half**

Seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the world's worst-hit region in the global AIDS epidemic, have cut the number of new HIV infections in children by 50% since 2009, UNAIDS said. The dramatic reductions - in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia - mean tens of thousands more babies are now being born free of HIV, UNAIDS said in a report on its Global Plan to tackle the disease in around 20 of the worst affected countries. Overall, across 21 priority countries in Africa, there were 130,000 fewer new HIV infections among children in 2012 - a drop of 38% since 2009 - mostly due to increased drug treatment of pregnant women with the virus. Among places causing concern, UNAIDS said, are Angola and Nigeria, where new infections in children have increased and remained unchanged respectively since 2009.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-aids-africa-children-idUSBRE95O0RZ20130625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-aids-africa-children-idUSBRE95O0RZ20130625)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**PM lashes out at protesters**

Turkish police on Tuesday detained at least 20 people allegedly involved in violent protests, as the country's PM continued to lash out at protesters -- and a BBC journalist -- he claimed were part of a conspiracy to harm Turkey. Meanwhile, hundreds of protesters marched to Istanbul's central Taksim square, this time to denounce a court decision that -- pending trial -- freed police officer accused of killing a demonstrator during the anti-government protests that have swept the country since 31 May. In an address to members of his Islamic-rooted party in Parliament, PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated that the protests were orchestrated by forces wanting to prevent Turkey's rise.

**AP** - [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=195484400**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=195484400)

**Tajikistan**

**FM meets delegation of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS**

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Nizomiddin Zokhidov met with the delegation of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), which arrived from New York. During the meeting, the sides discussed issues of cooperation between Tajikistan and the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, UN involvement in regional integration processes in order to strengthen and promote regional cooperation, promotion of the implementation of long-term programs of socio-economic transformation in the country, the issues of sustainable economic development at the national and regional levels, the water-energy issues, cooperation in the field of education and role of the UN in coordination of efforts in combating terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking in Central Asia.

**CA-News -** [**http://en.ca-news.org/news:525214/**](http://en.ca-news.org/news:525214/)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Dengue fever cases hit a high in parts of Southeast Asia**

Several Southeast Asian countries are seeing record numbers of people infected with dengue fever. More than 40,000 people in Thailand's capital Bangkok are suffering from the world's fastest spreading tropical disease while up to 150,000 people nationwide may have come down with the virus since the beginning of the year. According to officials, 50 people have died in Thailand from the fever. In Laos, 44 people have died and more than 11,000 people have come down with the virus since the start of 2013, raising concerns the number of infections could exceed the 2010 record of 23,000 infections and 46 deaths.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130625114148-6jwhn/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130625114148-6jwhn/?source=hptop)

**China**

**Riots kill 27 in minority region of far west China**

Riots in a restive far western region of China on Wednesday killed 27 people and left at least three injured, state media said. The official Xinhua News Agency said knife-wielding mobs attacked police stations, a local government building and a construction site Wednesday morning in a remote town in the Turkic-speaking Xinjiang (shihn-jahng) region. The unrest in in Lukqun, a township in Turpan prefecture, left 17 people dead, including nine policemen, before police shot and killed 10 rioters, the agency reported. Xinhua cited officials with the region's Communist Party committee.

**ABC** - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/riots-kill-27-minority-region-west-china-19490075>

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar to restart Rohingya repatriation**

Myanmar has approved, in principle, to restart a long-delayed voluntary repatriation program for Rohingya Muslim refugees living in the country, Bangladesh’s foreign Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Haque said. Myanmar and Bangladesh reached an agreement to resume the program during the annual foreign office consultations in Naypyitaw from June 12-17, according to the foreign secretary.

**Daily Prime News -** [**http://www.dailyprimenews.com/details.php?id=12083**](http://www.dailyprimenews.com/details.php?id=12083)

**Timor-Leste**

**Bolstering disaster risk reduction**

Timor-Leste needs to do more at the national and district levels to boost disaster preparedness, especially in rural areas, say experts. Each year, communities face an increasing number of natural hazards with 185 floods recorded since 2010, compared to 32 between 2001 and 2009. Over 70% of the country’s 1.1 million people live in rural areas.

**IRIN** - [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98277/bolstering-disaster-risk-reduction-in-timor-leste**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98277/bolstering-disaster-risk-reduction-in-timor-leste)

ESAR

**Kenya**

**New malaria tool to help track insecticide resistance**

A new interactive online mapping tool will help track insecticide resistance (IR) in malaria-causing mosquitoes, experts say. The tool, the IR Mapper, "consolidates reports of insecticide resistance in malaria vectors onto filterable maps to inform vector-control strategies." Data consolidation for the programme was conducted by the Swiss company Vestergaard Frandsen and a partnership between the Kenya Medical Research Institute and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KEMRI/CDC).

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98279**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98279)

**Somalia**

**Al Shabaab ambush Govt Forces near Baidoa**

At least 10 people were killed and 15 others injured in a battle between Al Shabaab and Somali forces outside the south central city of Baidoa on Wednesday, Garowe Online reports. The clashes sparked after Al Shabaab fighter ambushed government forces that left the town of Qansah Dheere and were headed to the capital of Bay region, Baidoa.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260128.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260128.html)

# Al-Shabaab abducting Children from Central Somalia

# Al-Shabaab in recent weeks has kidnapped hundreds of children from the militant-controlled town of El Bur in Galgadud, residents say, expressing fear that the al-Qaeda-affiliated group is forcibly recruiting them as child soldiers. Since early May, more than 350 children under the age of 16 have been taken from Qur'an schools or while playing in the streets of El Bur and surrounding areas, said town elder Jama Hassan, 54.

# AllAfrica - <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260098.html?aa_source=slideout>

**Madagascar**

**Locusts seen by FAO possibly causing Food Crisis**

Locusts in Madagascar are “largely uncontrolled” and a food crisis may emerge, with two-thirds of the country infested by September, the [United Nations](http://topics.bloomberg.com/united-nations/)’ Food & Agriculture Organization said. The [locust plague](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/178657/icode/), which has infested over half of Madagascar’s cultivated land and pastures, poses a food and livelihood threat to 13 million people, or 60 percent of the island’s population, according to the FAO.

**Bloomberg -** [**http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-26/locusts-in-madagascar-seen-by-fao-possibly-causing-food-crisis.html**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-26/locusts-in-madagascar-seen-by-fao-possibly-causing-food-crisis.html)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Clashes in Zagazig ahead of major weekend protests**

Protesters scuffled in Zagazig, Sharqeya on Monday night near the governorate building where members of opposition groups have been camped for several days. Both the Muslim Brotherhood and opposition held simultaneous press conferences approximately 100 meters apart: the Brotherhood at Al-Fatah Mosque, and the opposition outside the governorate building.

**Daily News -** [**http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/06/25/clashes-in-zagazig-ahead-of-major-weekend-protests/**](http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/06/25/clashes-in-zagazig-ahead-of-major-weekend-protests/)

**Lebanon**

**At least 20 Syrians injured in Beirut bus stabbing attack**

At least 20 Syrians were injured in an assault on Wednesday when their bus was attacked by a group of people in Beirut, the state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported. “Three cars with tinted windows intercepted a minibus carrying 25 Syrians in the Jisr al-Wati neighborhood. Eight men attacked the passengers with knives, injuring 20 of them,” a police source told AFP. The NNA said that the vehicle was en route to a studio where its passengers were to be recording folklore songs when the group of men attacked the bus. The Lebanese authorities arrived to the scene of the attack and an investigation into the incident is underway. There was blood on the seats of the vehicle and on discarded t-shirts inside the bus and on the street, an AFP photographer said.

**Al Arabiya-** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/06/26/At-least-20-Syrians-injured-in-Beirut-stabbing-attack.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/06/26/At-least-20-Syrians-injured-in-Beirut-stabbing-attack.html)

**Lebanon forces hunt Sunni cleric behind deadly clashes**

Lebanese security forces launched a manhunt for radical Sunni cleric Ahmad al-Assir on Tuesday, after clashes with his supporters in the southern city of Sidon killed 17 soldiers. Troops consolidated their grip on the port city after overrunning the cleric's headquarters late on Monday but Assir himself remained at large. Soldiers evacuated civilians trapped in their homes since the fighting began on Sunday afternoon, and blew up explosives abandoned by Assir's supporters as they fled. The 24 hours of clashes were the worst to hit Lebanon since the beginning of the conflict in neighbouring Syria, which has inflamed sectarian tensions in Lebanon, sparking sporadic fighting.

**AFP** - [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gwpiVclFpJa4QWD8JW\_Yz6uApUzA?docId=CNG.083c6f49d45308df3a6fc7d8a720e4f3.801**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gwpiVclFpJa4QWD8JW_Yz6uApUzA?docId=CNG.083c6f49d45308df3a6fc7d8a720e4f3.801)

**Syria**

**US envoy: UN failure to act is disgrace**

Outgoing US Ambassador Susan Rice says the UNSC’s failure to take action to stop the conflict in Syria is "a moral and strategic disgrace that history will judge harshly." She said at her final news conference Tuesday before starting her new job as US national security adviser on 1 July that the paralysis of the UN's most important body is "a stain" on the council that she will regret forever -- even though she maintained that the US and its allies were not responsible. Rice blamed three double vetoes by Russia and China of resolutions aimed at pressuring Syria's President Bashar Assad to end the violence, even though they didn't contain sanctions.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/us-envoy-failure-act-syria-disgrace-19488452**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/us-envoy-failure-act-syria-disgrace-19488452)

**More than 100,000 killed in Syria since uprising began**

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Syria since the beginning of the country's uprising in March 2011, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights watchdog said in a new toll on Wednesday. The toll was now 100,191 people, with at least 36,661 civilians killed, along with 25,000 regime troops and 18,072 rebel fighters, according to the Observatory. The remainder comprises pro-regime militiamen, unidentified victims and Hezbollah fighters. The group, which relies on a network of activists, doctors and lawyers on the ground throughout Syria, said 18,072 rebel fighters had been killed. On the regime side, the group reported the deaths of at least 25,407 army soldiers, 17,311 pro-regime militia and 169 members of the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, which has dispatched fighters to battle alongside the Syrian army. The group counted another 2,571 unidentified people killed in the fighting throughout the war-torn country up until June 24. The figures are a testament to the levels of violence wracking the country, which has been ravaged by a civil war that began with peaceful demonstrations calling for regime change.

**AFP-** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/06/26/NGO-More-than-100-000-killed-in-Syria-since-uprising-began-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/06/26/NGO-More-than-100-000-killed-in-Syria-since-uprising-began-.html)

**Jordan**

**Italian FM announces plan with Amman for new refugee camp** - UNICEF mentionItaly is cooperating with the Jordanian government to build a new refugee camp for those fleeing the Syrian civil war, Italian Foreign Minister Emma Bonino announced on Tuesday during a visit to the Zaatari camp already hosting 150,000 people. Bonino also called on Italians to donate money to help Syrian refugees, mostly women and children, who are living in very difficult conditions over the border. In the Zaatari camp alone, women and children are 70% of the 150.000 refugees. The objective of the minister is to organize, with the help of the media and UNICEF committee, a campaign to raise private funds and donations.   
**ANSAmeD** - [**http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/italy/2013/06/25/Syria-Bonino-announces-plan-Amman-new-refugee-camp\_8923972.html**](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/italy/2013/06/25/Syria-Bonino-announces-plan-Amman-new-refugee-camp_8923972.html)

**Yemen**

**Swarms of locusts in Sa’ada and Al-Jawf**

Swarms of red desert grasshopper locusts have descended on Sa’ada and Al-Jawf governorates, threatening this year’s harvests, the Ministry of Agriculture announced. Mohammed Al-Ghashm, deputy of Agricultural Services at the Ministry of Agriculture, said the grasshoppers were seen in the Ktaf district of Sa’ada; a small swarm was also seen in the Alyotma district of Al-Jawf. Locusts can consume 100,000 tons of crops a day -- enough food to feed half a million people for an entire year.

**Yemen Times** - [**http://www.yementimes.com/en/1687/news/2512/Swarms-of-locusts-in-Sa%E2%80%99ada-and-Al-Jawf.htm**](http://www.yementimes.com/en/1687/news/2512/Swarms-of-locusts-in-Sa%E2%80%99ada-and-Al-Jawf.htm)

**Libya**

**UNICEF and Govt. sign agreement to improve basic Education system**

UNICEF and the Libyan Government today signed an agreement that aims to improve the basic education system in the North African country. The signing of the agreement will kick start action on various policies, including the development of an education management information system, validation of early learning development standards, and the promotion of early childhood care. It will also support teachers' training, risk education and the establishment of inclusive education mechanisms in schools.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260293.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260293.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**US commits to Afghan Taliban talks despite Kabul attack**

US and Afghan officials say they are committed to talks with the Taliban, despite an assault on a CIA station and government buildings in Kabul. The White House said President Barack Obama and counterpart Hamid Karzai had spoken following the attack, and had "reaffirmed" their commitment. Taliban militants launched the attack with gunfire and bombs early on Tuesday. Security forces repelled them, but four insurgents and three guards died.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23058031**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23058031)

**Bomb kills eight women, one child**

A roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday killed eight women and one child as they travelled to celebrate a wedding engagement, police said. "This morning a roadside bomb hit a civilian car in which eight women and one child were killed, and the driver and two other men were wounded," Ghorzang Afridi, spokesman for the Kandahar provincial police said.

**AFP** - [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-106704-Bomb-kills-eight-women,-one-child:-Afghan-police**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-106704-Bomb-kills-eight-women,-one-child:-Afghan-police)

**Pakistan**

**Bomb targeting senior judge kills 7**

A bomb targeting a senior judge in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi wounded him and killed seven members of the security forces on Wednesday, a senior government official said. The Taliban took responsibility for the attack. The dead included six policemen and a paramilitary Ranger.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bomb-targeting-senior-judge-kills-pakistan-19489954**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bomb-targeting-senior-judge-kills-pakistan-19489954)

**India**

**India floods: Rescue operations resume in Uttarakhand**

Rescue operations have resumed in the Indian state of Uttarakhand to evacuate thousands of people still stranded in the mountains 10 days after floods and landslides killed more than 800 people. At least 13 people died on Tuesday when an Indian air force rescue helicopter crashed near a pilgrimage site. Nearly 100,000 people have been evacuated from the affected areas in the Himalayan mountains. The toll could rise as more bodies are found in remote areas, officials say. Early monsoon rains in India are believed to be the heaviest in 80 years.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23058651**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23058651)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Nine dead in Rio slum gunbattles**

Nine people, including one police officer, were fatally shot during gunbattles that erupted in a slum complex near Rio international airport, authorities said in an updated toll Tuesday. The deaths were not linked to the mass street protests against government waste and corruption currently sweeping the country, but will add to concerns about security in Brazil in the run up to next year's World Cup. At least nine people were injured and nine others detained Tuesday, including the main suspect in the killing of the police officer.

**AFP** - [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130625/nine-dead-rio-slum-gunbattles**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130625/nine-dead-rio-slum-gunbattles)

**100,000 expected to protest before match**

Demanding better public services and angered by World Cup costs, about 100,000 people are expected at a protest Wednesday before Brazil plays Uruguay in the Confederations Cup semifinals. Local officials have declared a holiday in Belo Horizonte and authorities say they are expecting confrontations with the demonstrators. Belo Horizonte has had some of the most violent clashes between police and protesters since the country was swept by a wave of demonstrations calling for better education, transport and health services.

**AP** - [**http://news.yahoo.com/100-000-expected-protest-brazil-match-171201061.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/100-000-expected-protest-brazil-match-171201061.html)

**Venezuela**

**Flood risks increased by "new rains" linked to climate change**

Sudden torrential rains, a phenomenon associated with climate change, cause a heightened risk of flooding and landslides in the densely populated communities on the outskirts of Caracas. Residents and local governments are making preparations to confront the dreaded "new rains," which cause landslides that block the channels and ravines that would otherwise help to drain the swollen river.

**IPS** - [**http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/flood-risks-in-venezuela-increased-by-new-rains-linked-to-climate-change/**](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/flood-risks-in-venezuela-increased-by-new-rains-linked-to-climate-change/)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Follow the Niger and Mali models to tackle malnutrition -** UNICEF mention

Nutrition treatments have made huge developments in the past few years. In Niger, more than 1 million children have been treated for severe malnutrition over the past five years, according to research MSF undertook with UNICEF, but health policy has taken treatment for severe malnutrition far beyond helping a child gain weight. Similarly, in Mali, where one in three children are stunted and one in six do not make it to age five, the ministry of health and MSF offer a comprehensive package of services designed to prevent malnutrition from occurring.

**Guardian** - [**http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development-professionals-network/2013/jun/25/child-malnutrition-health-niger-mali**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development-professionals-network/2013/jun/25/child-malnutrition-health-niger-mali)

**UN to make sure Chad has no child soldiers in Mali**

The UN will screen all Chadian troops offered for the world body's peacekeeping force in Mali to make sure there are no child soldiers in their ranks, the head of UN peacekeeping said on Tuesday. Chad was included in a UN list of countries published last week where children are recruited, killed, maimed or raped by government forces and armed groups. Countries that have child soldiers are barred from participating in UN peacekeeping missions.

**Child Soliders International -** [**http://www.child-soldiers.org/news\_reader.php?id=682**](http://www.child-soldiers.org/news_reader.php?id=682)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130625162222-01pwo/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130625162222-01pwo/?source=hptop)

**Ivoirian refugees put down roots in Liberia**

Though Côte d'Ivoire has officially been at peace for over two years, many of the nearly 60,000 refugees who remain in Liberia are settling in for the long haul, citing continuing instability, violence and fear of political persecution in their home country. The problem, an Ivorian refugee said is that western Côte d'Ivoire remains unsafe for supporters of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo - or anyone from the Guéré ethnic group, among others.

**IRIN** - [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98280/ivoirian-refugees-put-down-roots-in-liberia**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98280/ivoirian-refugees-put-down-roots-in-liberia)

**Mali**

**UN force to start 1 July amid fears over heat, election**

UN peacekeepers will start operations in Mali on 1 July after the UNSC gave the green light on Tuesday for the mission, envoys and officials said. The 15-member Security Council unanimously approved in April a mandate for the 12,600-member force, to be known as MINUSMA, but its deployment had been subject to a council review on Tuesday of Mali's security situation. French troops will support the peacekeepers if needed to combat Islamist extremist threats.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-mali-un-idUSBRE95O10I20130625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-mali-un-idUSBRE95O10I20130625)

**Timbuktu’s economy at a standstill**

The massive movement of people triggered by the conflict in northern Mali has devastated the region’s economy, and its agricultural production has all but ground to a halt. Nearly 530,000 people have been forced from their homes in northern Mali since fighting began in March 2012, with more than 353,000 fleeing to southern and central Mali and around 175,000 seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Nearly a quarter of Timbuktu’s 45,000 inhabitants joined the exodus. Although the security situation has slowly started to improve, inter-community tensions remain, and few of those who left the historic city have returned.

**OCHA** - [**http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/mali-timbuktu%E2%80%99s-economy-standstill**](http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/mali-timbuktu%E2%80%99s-economy-standstill)

**CAR**

**Central African Republic ignored, ICRC says**

Thousands of families are suffering from violence in CAR though attention to the conflict has faded, the ICRC said.  ICRC warned in early June the onset of the rainy season may exacerbate a humanitarian situation already complicated by security challenges. ICRC delegates in CAR said midwives have run out of medical supplies, forcing mothers to give birth without their services. Field hospitals, meanwhile, are short on equipment, forcing the ICRC to evacuate wounded civilians to the capital, Bangui. Looting is widespread, the aid group said Tuesday.

**UPI -** [**http://www.upi.com/Top\_News/Special/2013/06/25/Central-African-Republic-ignored-ICRC-says/UPI-25081372178965/print**](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2013/06/25/Central-African-Republic-ignored-ICRC-says/UPI-25081372178965/print)

# Nigeria

# Boko Haram Hunters Take over Checkpoints

# Hundreds of youths who launched a manhunt for insurgents in Maiduguri have taken over stop and search work from soldiers, suggesting that the volunteers are assuming more responsibilities in their efforts to help root out insurgency in Borno State. Their involvement in search work is based on the belief that they would be able to identify insurgents faster and easier than the soldiers. Since they launched their volunteer campaign against Boko Haram two weeks ago, the youths have helped facilitate the arrest of dozens of suspected sect members.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201306250776.html?aa\_source=mf-hdlns**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201306250776.html?aa_source=mf-hdlns)

This update is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a compilation of humanitarian, political and security-related media stories. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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