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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Syria rifts loom over G20 summit**

World leaders from the G20 group of nations are set to meet in Russia amid sharp differences over military action against Syria's government. Ahead of the talks, Russia's Vladimir Putin warned that action without UN approval would be "an aggression". But President Barack Obama said the credibility of the international community was on the line. While Syria is not officially on the G20 agenda, leaders are expected to discuss it on the sidelines. The annual summit of the G20 group of developed and developing nations which opens in St Petersburg is supposed to concentrate on the global economy.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23967567**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-23967567)

**World set to use much more wastewater - UN-backed study**

The world is set to use far more treated wastewater to help irrigate crops and feed a rising population as fresh water supplies dry up, a team of U.N.-backed experts said on Thursday. A study led by Japan's Tottori University and UN University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) forecast "a rapid increase in the use of treated wastewater for farming and other purposes worldwide". It did not forecast volumes, saying that many nations lack data on sewer and drain water. Of 181 nations studied, only 55 had information on wastewater generation, treatment and re-use. Many governments and companies have so far overlooked the economic potential of vast amounts of wastewater, UNU-INWEH director, Zafar Adeel, said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130905055307-lxrqu/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130905055307-lxrqu/?source=hpbreaking)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Record radiation readings near Fukushima contaminated water tanks**

Radiation readings around tanks holding contaminated water at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant have spiked by more than a fifth to their highest levels, Japan's nuclear regulator said, heightening concerns about the clean-up of the worst atomic disaster in almost three decades. Radiation hotspots have spread to three holding areas for hundreds of hastily built tanks storing water contaminated by being flushed over three reactors that melted down at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in March 2011. Readings just above the ground near a set of tanks at the plant showed radiation as high as 2,200 millisieverts (mSv), the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) reported. The previous high in areas holding the tanks was the 1,800 mSv recorded on 31 August 2013. Both levels would be enough to kill an unprotected person within hours. The NRA later raised the severity of the initial leak from a level 1 "anomaly" to a level 3 "serious incident" on an international scale of 1-7 for radiation releases.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130904035519-sj911#**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130904035519-sj911#)

**Cambodia**

**Cambodia vows tight security for opposition protest**

Cambodia will deploy thousands of security personnel to police a mass protest in the capital Phnom Penh this weekend against disputed election results, officials said Thursday. The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) said it expected at least 20,000 people to join the demonstration on Saturday over strongman premier Hun Sen's contested poll victory in July. Opposition leader Sam Rainsy urged people to turn out in order "not to let them steal the votes". The CNRP, which has so far unsuccessfully demanded an independent probe into the election, has urged its supporters to avoid violence at what could be one of the largest opposition demonstrations for a decade.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/cambodia-vows-tight/803296.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/cambodia-vows-tight/803296.html)

**China**

**Floods affect more than 5 million people in border province**

Floods and heavy rain have affected more than 5.2 million people in the Sino-Russian bordering province of Heilongjiang, local authorities reported. Residents from 904 towns and townships have been affected by the floods, and among them, 331,000 people have been relocated, said the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters. The floods have also caused 18,300 houses to collapse and roads to be temporarily cut off, adding that total economic losses for the province are estimated at $3.12 billion. More than 8,000 relief workers are still battling the floods. The Heilongjiang River has swelled since mid-August, with some sections of its middle and lower reaches seeing their worst floods in history. The water levels of Nenjiang River and Songhua River have also exceeded their warning level for weeks. The provincial water resource department estimates the water levels of Songhua River and Heilongjiang River to recede and return to normal after 20 and 30 September respectively.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-09/04/c\_132691198.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-09/04/c_132691198.htm#)

**Indonesia**

**Thousands take to street in Indonesia on pay hike demand**

Over 20,000 labors from Jakarta and its satellite cities staged a rally Thursday, demanding a pay rise by up to 50 percent as soaring inflation declined their buying power. The workers marched to the downtown area in front of the State Palace and Manpower Ministry. "We demand for a pay hike of 50 percent, because after the oil price hike, everything is expensive,"Ridho Saleh, one of protesters, told Xinhua. Carrying banners, the workers chanted yells of "Rising Wage." One of the banners reads "Workers demand an appropriate payment and delete the outsourcing system." The labors said they wanted the hike to stand at 3.7 million rupiah (some 332.58 US dollar) per month. The government decided to increase labor salary by up to over 40 percent last year, but rising inflation make their purchasing power remain weak.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/05/c\_132694325.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/05/c_132694325.htm)

**Philippines**

**Gunmen abduct 2 teachers in S. Philippine province**

Gunmen abducted two male teachers in a remote coastal village in southern Philippine province of Isabela on Wednesday night, police said Thursday. The abducted teachers, identified as Frederick Banot and Cherden Masong, were employees of the Charity Children Foundation Inc. (CCFI), a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Basilan Island. The heavily armed marauders swooped a staff house at the village of Tairan, Lantawan township and seized the two victims at gunpoint, said Basilan police commander Mario Dapillosa. The suspects dragged their captives into a jungkung motorcraft, a Malaysian-styled pumpboat, and escaped toward unknown direction in the thick darkness of the night, according to Dapillosa. Police said no group has claimed responsibility so far and there has been no contact from the abductors.

**Xinhua -** [**http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90777/8390151.html**](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90777/8390151.html)

**Viet Nam**

**Floods, landslides kill 8 in northern Vietnam**

Floods and landslides in the past two days have killed at least eight people in northern Vietnam, according to the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control of Vietnam on Thursday. Of the death toll, one person was in Ha Giang province, three in Lai Chau and four others in Lao Cai. In addition, some 14 people were injured and 10 others still missing, said the committee. Heavy rains in the region also caused severe damage to houses and crops, of which nearly 120 hectares of crops and aquacultures were affected. The committee warned that heavy rains may continue over the next few days in northern Vietnam and instructed relevant agencies to immediately handle the consequences to help local people stabilizing their life.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/05/c\_132693864.htm#**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/05/c_132693864.htm#)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Human, drug and ivory trafficking on the rise in eastern Africa – UN**

More than 100,000 people were smuggled out of eastern Africa in 2012, heroin seizures are soaring and ivory poaching has risen to levels that could threaten local elephant populations, the United Nations said in a report on organised crime on Tuesday. Most of the people being smuggled are Ethiopians and Somalis hoping to find a better life working in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. En route, they are often kidnapped, tortured and held for ransom. “This is driven in part by high levels of conflict and poverty which have resulted in a large and vulnerable stream of migrants,” the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a statement. “Many of those trying to escape the situations they face are subjected to a range of abuses, including confinement, beatings, extortion and rape at multiple stages of their journey.”

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130904110537-s9g5r/?source=hptop#**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130904110537-s9g5r/?source=hptop#)

**Somalia**

**Polio widespread in regions under al-Shabaab control**

Al-Shabaab's refusal to allow the supply of the polio vaccine in areas under its control is causing panic among residents at a time when aid workers are struggling to contain an outbreak of the crippling virus. "The polio outbreak plaguing Somalia has spread despite significant efforts to curb the disease," the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement August 15th, adding that insecurity is hampering efforts to contain the virus. Six years after Somalia was declared free of the virus, at least 105 cases have been confirmed in the country, the "worst outbreak in the world in a non-endemic country", according to OCHA.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201309050099.html#**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201309050099.html#)

**South Africa**

**Wage strike hits South Africa gold mines**

A strike by tens of thousands of South African gold miners for higher pay has severely affected production in the struggling industry. Producers grouped in the Chamber of Mines said output at 16 of the 23 mines currently involved in talks was partially or severely affected on Wednesday morning. The stoppage called by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) began at the evening shift on Tuesday, with many miners refusing to go underground. On Tuesday, President Jacob Zuma had urged employers and unions to avoid another strike in the once iconic gold mining industry, which is now in rapid decline. South Africa's mining industry has been hit by rising costs, diminishing production and labour unrest in recent years. Some 46 people were killed during a six-week period of labour unrest over wages at Lonmin's platinum mine last year in Marikana, northwest of Johannesburg.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/201394162743880722.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/201394162743880722.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israeli forces surround al-Aqsa mosque**

There are confirmed reports that Israeli forces have surrounded the al-Aqsa mosque in occupied Jerusalem after it was reportedly stormed by Jewish groups. Witnesses inside the mosque told Al Jazeera on Wednesday that Israeli forces had detained several Palestinian Muslim worshippers inside and were firing tear gas. Witnesses also reported clashes between a Jewish group and Israeli forces near the mosque after a number of far-right Jews stormed it. Israeli police closed all gates leading to the mosque and prevented worshipers under 50 from entering, Ma'an news website reported. They also stopped dozens of buses in Jerusalem carrying Palestinian worshipers to the mosque and told them to turn around the website said quoting Israeli media.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/20139483212153293.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/20139483212153293.html)

**Middle East strains under the weight of Syria's two million refugees – UNICEF mention**

With the Syrian refugee numbers passing the two million mark, governments and aid officials are coming to the same reckoning as an air-conditioner repairman who came here for one night and stayed for a year. In early August 2012, he brought his three children across the border to escape some particularly intense shelling. Today, the camp remains his home—along with some 130,000 other Syrians. The camp, Zaatari, now ranks as Jordan's fourth-largest city, the UN says, and as the second-largest refugee camp in the world. Only Dadaab in Kenya, with more than 400,000 people, is

bigger, the UN estimates. Within Jordan, Syrians are also taking some work from Egyptian migrants, who are starting to complain. Water has stopped flowing into some northern Jordanian villages for periods of a month or more as demand soars, village residents say. It is a scene playing out across the Middle East. In Lebanon and Iraq, Turkey and Egypt, Syria's refugee exodus has stretched resources, sparked political and sectarian tensions, and changed economies and demographics. "We're in a chronic situation," says Ted Chaiban, director of emergency programs for UNICEF, "with a wide number of countries affected."

**WSJ -** [**http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324202304579053274268277260.html#printMode?KEYWORDS=Chaiban#**](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324202304579053274268277260.html#printMode?KEYWORDS=Chaiban#)

**Egypt**

**Egypt's interior minister survives bomb attack**

Egypt's interior minister survived an assassination attempt on Thursday when a bomb blew up as his convoy drove through Cairo's Nasr City district, state media and security officials said. Security sources said at least 10 people had been injured, but the minister, who lives in Nasr City, just outside the city centre, was not hurt. The minister, Mohamed Ibrahim, has been among those responsible for a violent crackdown on supporters of Mohamed Mursi, the Islamist president ousted two months ago by the army following mass protests against his rule. The security sources said a bomb had exploded near his convoy. The state-run Nile TV reported that Ibrahim had survived an assassination attempt. Initial reports suggested the device had been a car bomb but state TV later reported that it had been thrown from a building. A Reuters reporter at the scene said witnesses had reported seeing a car explode while the minister's car was close by. Blood and pieces of flesh were scattered on the ground.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE9840BP20130905**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE9840BP20130905)

**Syria**

**Syrian rebels fight army near Christian village**

Syrian anti-regime activists say government troops and al-Qaida-linked rebels are fighting over a regime-held Christian village for a second day. The director of the Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abdul-Rahman, says the fighters of al-Qaida affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra group entered the Christian village of Maaloula overnight. Despite heavy army presence in the village in Western Syria, Abdul-Rahman says the rebels patrolled its streets on foot and in vehicles, briefly surrounding a church and a mosque. He says the rebels left Maaloula early Thursday morning and heavy clashes between President Bashar Assad's troops and Nusra Front fighters have raged since then in surrounding mountains.

**AP -** [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=219154024**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=219154024)

**UNICEF continues massive humanitarian operation for Syria’s children**

Amidst heightened tensions across the region and as the number of Syria’s refugees rises beyond 2 million – half of them children – UNICEF continues to provide urgent life-saving supplies to children inside Syria and in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. UNICEF estimates that there has been a more than tenfold increase in the number of Syrian child refugees – from 70,000 to more than 1 million – in less than one year. In recent weeks 2,500 children on average have been crossing Syria’s borders every day. To meet increasing humanitarian needs, work is on-going to pre-position essential supplies such as bottled water, water tanks and purification tablets, jerry cans, nutritional supplies, hygiene and diarrheal disease kits, soap, blankets, winter clothes and other household materials. And as the new school year begins across the region, UNICEF is supporting children’s return to learning, providing school bags, materials and furniture. Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF has provided more than 10.2 million people affected by the crisis with safe water, vaccinated more than 2.4 million children against diseases, enrolled 278,000 in education programmes and provided 468,000 children with recreational activities. As part of the largest appeal the United Nations has ever launched in its history, UNICEF asked for USD $470 million for its Syria regional response. UNICEF still needs $189 million.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70302.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70302.html)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia's opposition threatens protests after talks fail**

Tunisia's secular opposition threatened on Wednesday to launch more mass protests to force the Islamist-led government to step down, saying negotiations to end a political stand-off had failed. Hamma Hammami, a senior leader in a coalition of over a dozen secular opposition parties agitating for new elections, blamed the Islamist Ennahda party heading the government coalition for the collapse of two weeks of mediated talks. The talks aimed to lead to new polls that analysts say the unpopular Ennahda would probably lose, ending Tunis's Islamist experiment without the violence seen in Egypt after the army overthrew Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Mursi in July.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-04/230038-tunisias-opposition-threatens-protests-after-talks-fail.ashx#axzz2e07MFcBd#**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-04/230038-tunisias-opposition-threatens-protests-after-talks-fail.ashx#axzz2e07MFcBd#)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**US General says up to 100 Afghan soldiers killed every week**

A US general has said the Taliban are no longer capable of overthrowing the government in Kabul but he added that that the militants are capable of fighting "for a fairly long period of time." Lieutenant General Mark Milley, the deputy commander of US forces in Afghanistan, spoke on September 4 to reporters by video teleconference from his headquarters in Kabul. He said the war's momentum has shifted in favor of the Afghan government but that the country's army and police are suffering heavy casualties. Milley said that around 50 to 100 Afghan soldiers are killed in battle every week.

**AFP/AP -** [**http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan-us-general-milley-casualties/25095979.html#**](http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan-us-general-milley-casualties/25095979.html#)

**Shia mosque attacked in Kabul**

At least two worshippers have been hurt after two men armed with AK-47 assault rifles, knives and explosives attacked a Shia mosque in Kabul, officials say. The attack took place in the mainly Shia Dashte Barche area of the city in the early hours of Thursday. Police say the attackers were wearing Afghan police uniforms and were Pakistani nationals. They were both killed after a gun battle. Reports say that other worshippers also fought with the assailants.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23968511**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23968511)

**India**

**142 test positive for dengue in August**

Cases of dengue are continuing to pile up in Delhi hospitals. As per latest data, 142 cases of the mosquito-borne disease have been detected in August, the highest this year. No death has been reported so far, according to municipal corporation data released on Monday. Dr N K Yadav, the municipal health officer, said the spike in the disease can be attributed to intermittent rains and the resulting conditions which are conducive to the breeding of mosquitoes. "The peak for dengue cases is generally during September-end but, due to intermittent rains last month, the temperature got stabilized to about 25 degrees Celsius, conducive to breeding of the aedes mosquito. This explains the sudden rise in number of cases," said a senior municipal official. He said there were only 20 cases of dengue from January to July with March and May witnessing none.

**Times of India -** [**http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-03/delhi/41725375\_1\_dengue-cases-dr-n-k-yadav-malaria-cases#**](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-03/delhi/41725375_1_dengue-cases-dr-n-k-yadav-malaria-cases#)

**Maldives**

**Maldives faces democracy test after 'coup' violence**

The Indian Ocean archipelago of the Maldives goes to the polls this weekend for a presidential election that will test its young democracy 18 months after a violent change in leadership. Political unrest in February 2012 briefly threatened the country's vital tourism sector, which draws a million well-heeled visitors a year, following the ousting of former president Mohamed Nasheed. Nasheed, a scuba-diving former democracy activist, won the Maldives' first free vote in 2008, but resigned last year after a mutiny by police officers. The 46-year-old denounced it as a coup, saying he was forced to step down at gunpoint, and accused then Vice-president Mohamed Waheed of conspiring with former dictator Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to replace him. Waheed's ascent to the presidency sparked months of protests and violent clashes, meaning observers -- particularly regional power India -- are anxious for a clear and uncontested result on Saturday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/news/maldives-faces-democracy-test-after-coup-violence/1215633846#**](http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/news/maldives-faces-democracy-test-after-coup-violence/1215633846#)

**Pakistan**

**Security crackdown ordered In Karachi**

Pakistan has ordered a crackdown on criminals and militants in the southern port city of Karachi. The announcement on September 4 followed two days of talks between local officials, business leaders, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The city, Pakistan's biggest, has been plagued by killings and kidnappings, blamed on Islamic militants, criminals and ethnic and political tensions. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, some 1,700 people were killed in Pakistan in the first six months of 2013.

**AFP/DPA -** [**http://www.rferl.org/content/pakistan-karachi-security-operation-/25096038.html#**](http://www.rferl.org/content/pakistan-karachi-security-operation-/25096038.html#)

**Sri Lanka**

**Government hits back at UNHCHR after visit**

Sri Lanka's government criticised the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) for calling attention to accusations that police and soldiers had harassed people who met her during a visit to the country's former war zones. Navi Pillay, ending a mission to assess Sri Lanka's progress after a 26-year war between the government and separatist Tamils, said she had received reports that people she had met in the north and east during her seven-day trip were questioned and intimidated. She said the UN viewed any reprisals against people who talked to its officials as an extremely serious matter and that such harassment "appears to be getting worse in Sri Lanka, which is a country where critical voices are quite often attacked or even permanently silenced". A Government spokesperson said Pillay should not comment on accusations from people who fail to produce evidence.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/04/uk-srilanka-rights-idUKBRE98315N20130904#**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/04/uk-srilanka-rights-idUKBRE98315N20130904#)

TACR

**Across TACR**

**South America's big freeze**

An outbreak of exceptionally cold and snowy weather has hit parts of South America, resulting in at least a dozen deaths. The arrival of the snow on an Antarctic cold front last week was accompanied by extremely cold conditions, with temperatures as low as Minus 19C, which have persisted ever since. Even Chile’s Atacama Desert, one of the world’s driest, did not escape, receiving its heaviest snowfall in 30 years. Peru seems to have been worst hit, with the heaviest snow in a decade resulting in the deaths of up to 30,000 farm animals, including llamas, alpacas, cattle and sheep. Bales of hay and vitamin shots have been supplied to farmers to help in the fight to keep surviving animals alive. Tens of thousands of people have been cut off by the snow and several deaths have been reported, some as the result of homes collapsing because of the weight of accumulated snow. Peruvian President Ollanta Humala visited some of the worst affected areas as emergency relief workers distributed blankets and medical supplies. Bolivia has also been badly affected by the icy blast which has killed four people.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/weather/2013/09/20139495729522475.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/weather/2013/09/20139495729522475.html#)

**Tropical Storm Gabrielle brings heavy rain to Puerto Rico**

Tropical Storm Gabrielle is bringing heavy rains to Puerto Rico and nearby islands. The storm's maximum sustained winds early Thursday are near 40 mph (65 kph) with slight strengthening possible over the next two days. Tropical storm warnings have been issued for Puerto Rico and parts of the Dominican Republic, from Cabo Engano to Cabo Frances Viejo. The storm is expected to bring 3 to 6 inches of rain to parts of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eastern portions of the Dominican Republic. Gabrielle is centered about 40 miles (65 kilometers) south-southwest of Ponce, Puerto Rico, and is moving northwest near 8 mph (13 kph).

**AP -** [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20130905/tropical-weather/**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20130905/tropical-weather/)

**Colombia**

**Colombian president's popularity hits low after unrest**

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos' public approval rating has plunged to its lowest level since he took office in 2010, a poll released on Wednesday showed, due to a farmers' strike marred by violence and scant progress in peace talks with Marxist rebels. Just 21 percent of Colombians polled in late August and early September said they had a positive opinion of Santos, down from 48 percent in a similar survey conducted at the end of June, according to the Gallup poll. The survey was conducted in the middle of a two-week farmers' strike during which media images showed riot police wearing armor confronting workers dressed in ponchos. Santos, 62, was ridiculed during the early days of the strike for saying it was non-existent and that everything was normal. The ongoing dispute, in which farmers have blocked roads to snarl transportation nationwide, has put pressure on the center-right president, who has until November to decide whether to run for a second term.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/04/us-colombia-santos-idUSBRE9831AI20130904**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/04/us-colombia-santos-idUSBRE9831AI20130904)

**Mexico**

**Teachers protest new Mexico education reform**

Tens of thousands of teachers have demonstrated in Mexico City, many pledging to disobey an education reform passed by Congress and championed by President Enrique Pena Nieto. Mexico's Senate overwhelmingly passed a sweeping reform of the dysfunctional public school system early on Wednesday, handing Nieto an important victory in his push to remake some of his country's worst-run institutions. The late-night vote clears a path for Pena Nieto to move forward with a series of even more controversial reforms, including a measure that would violate one of modern Mexico's longest-standing taboos by allowing private investment in the state-run oil company. Education advocates say a series of concessions to the National Education Workers' Coordinating Committee (CNTE), one of the two main teachers unions, undermined the reform's ability to create true change in the national education system.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/09/20139582129838598.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/09/20139582129838598.html)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Food security situation in the Sahel remains dire**

About 11 million people in the Sahel are still severely food insecure, FAO warned. Poor families have used up their food stocks and are facing high food prices awaiting the next harvest. FAO is appealing to the international community to increase funding for aid to the most vulnerable farmers and herders in the region south of the Sahara. Of particular concern is the food security situation in northern Mali, northern Nigeria and neighbouring countries, where prices for coarse grains such as sorghum, millet and maize continue to increase. The nutritional status of children under five also remains worrisome, with a continuing high prevalence of acute malnutrition. Admissions to nutrition rehabilitation centres are close to 2012 levels, particularly in Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. Over 1.4 million children are at risk of severe malnutrition in 2013.

**FAO -** [**http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/195867/icode/#**](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/195867/icode/#)

**CAR**

**Central African Republic to collect guns**

Central African Republic on Wednesday launched a program to collect unauthorized weapons in response to rampant violence and petty crime in the chronically unstable nation. Security Minister Jose Binoua announced the program at the police headquarters in the capital, Bangui. The ceremony was attended by President Michel Djotodia, whose Seleka rebel coalition overthrew ex-President Francois Bozize in March. Djotodia has been criticized for failing to rein in his fighters, who have been accused of killing and raping civilians and even carrying out massacres outside the capital. His government has repeatedly blamed the violence on other armed groups that are not part of Seleka. The disarmament program will target civilians as well as Seleka fighters bearing weapons outside six authorized security installations, Binoua said.

**AP-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/central-african-republic-collect-guns-163840788.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/central-african-republic-collect-guns-163840788.html#)

**Malaria soars in C African Republic as people flee to bush**

The number of cases of malaria in northwest Central African Republic has almost doubled in the past year, partly because of insecurity caused by armed groups operating in the rural north, according to Medecins Sans Frontieres. The medical charity says it has treated 36,910 cases of malaria in Boguila, a region 50 km (30 miles) from the Chadian border, between January and June this year compared with 19,498 cases in the same period last year. CAR has been unstable since the Seleka, a group of five rebel units, overthrew the government in a military coup in March. Last week, French President Francois Hollande described the current situation in CAR as “very grave.” According to the Humanitarian and Development Partnership Team for CAR, since the coup more than 240,000 people have been displaced, half of them children – the group most at risk of contracting the mosquito-borne disease.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130904171347-db675/?source=hptop#**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130904171347-db675/?source=hptop#)

**Authorities move to disarm rebel fighters, halt violence**

Authorities in the CAR have begun a new disarmament campaign aimed mainly at rebels who overthrew the president in March. The Minister of Public Security reported that the campaign is a response to a surge in robberies, auto thefts, rapes and murders blamed largely on fighters with the Seleka rebel movement. He said he hopes to disarm rebel fighters living in parts of Bangui, outside six designated military barracks. He said any Seleka fighter walking around with a weapon outside those areas should hand over their weapon at a designated location. He also said the Bangui city limits would be closed to cars for the length of the campaign, which is expected to last about 10 days. The campaign is being carried out by police under the supervision of officers from Seleka and the CAR's armed forces.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/car-moves-to-disarm-rebel-fighters-halt-violence/1743238.html#**](http://www.voanews.com/content/car-moves-to-disarm-rebel-fighters-halt-violence/1743238.html#)

**Chad**

**"Ten-fold rise" in new cases of malaria in Chad**

An emergency operation is under way in the Salamat region of Chad after an "alarming" rise in cases of malaria. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said the number of reported new cases rose from 1,228 in the first week of August to 14,021 by the end of the month. Cases of the mosquito-borne disease do peak during the July to November rainy season. But MSF Health Advisor for Chad Dr Turid Piening said the sudden high spike in this area is unusual. She said: "More than 80% of people who are coming for consultations are coming because they are infected with malaria, normally its 30%-40% at this time of year.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-23961440##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-23961440##)

**DR Congo**

**Rebels impose 'unacceptable' curfew**

M23 rebels in the DR Congo are enforcing a curfew in areas under their control, the UN peacekeeping mission said, calling the move "completely unacceptable." A MONUSCO spokesperson said UN troops were monitoring the situation in the area of the east of the country controlled by the rebels during the current lull in fighting. "At the moment, it is time to consolidate the positions recovered by the army pending further actions in the future," he said. "The M23, which in practice controls the territory of Rutshuru (north of Goma)," has "imposed a curfew on civilians," said the officer. He said this was "completely unacceptable" and the situation was "being monitored by UN troops until future action.”

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130904-dr-congo-rebels-impose-unacceptable-curfew-un#**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130904-dr-congo-rebels-impose-unacceptable-curfew-un#)

**Leaders meet to broker end of DR Congo war**

Presidents from Africa's Great Lakes region gathered Thursday in Uganda for a fresh bid to broker a deal to end fighting in resource-rich eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The meeting of the 11-member International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) -- the seventh such summit held to try to find a lasting solution -- comes amid a recent upsurge in violence. Congolese troops, backed by a special United Nations force, launched a fresh assault against the M23 army mutineers in the turbulent North-Kivu province late last month. Conflict in the fertile and valuable mining region has in the past dragged regional powers into the fighting, with both Rwanda and Uganda accused of backing the M23, claims they flatly deny.

**VoA/AFP -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_09\_05/Leaders-meet-to-broker-end-of-DR-Congo-war-6678/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_09_05/Leaders-meet-to-broker-end-of-DR-Congo-war-6678/)

**Nigeria**

**About 105,700 persons may be displaced by flood in three Northern states**

The Director General of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported that about 105,700 persons may be displaced by flood in three northern states in the country, following the recent prediction of heavy rains by National Meteorological Agency. He disclosed this in Kirfi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, in continuation of his inspection tour of communities affected by flood in Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba States, saying that, “about 105,700 people may be displaced by flood this year in three northern States, if care is not taken”. According to him, “following the National Meteorological Agency’s prediction that some states, including Bauchi will experience flood this year,

NEMA swung into action by sensitizing various State Governments, Local Governments and Communities across the country to merge this early warning signs with positive action in order to prevent loss of lives and properties.” He further stated that, the Agency has cited flood relief camps in Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba States for twenty-nine vulnerable communities.

**Daily Post -** [**http://dailypost.com.ng/2013/09/04/about-105700-persons-may-be-displaced-by-flood-in-three-northern-states-nema/**](http://dailypost.com.ng/2013/09/04/about-105700-persons-may-be-displaced-by-flood-in-three-northern-states-nema/)

**Cholera kills eight in southern Nigeria**

Cholera has killed eight people in southern Nigeria and ten others have been hospitalised, health officials said Thursday, in the latest outbreak to hit the country following a heavy rainy season. Nigeria suffered cholera epidemics during the rainy seasons of 2010 and 2011, with nearly 2,000 people killed over two years. While 2012 saw few reported infections, health officials warn that Nigeria remains vulnerable to further outbreaks because of its high population density and poor sanitation in many areas. “We have eight deaths and 10 people in the hospital,” said Cosmas Oni, spokesman for the health ministry in southwestern Oyo state, adding that the outbreak was confirmed on Monday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/cholera-kills-eight-in-southern-nigeria-1.349896**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/cholera-kills-eight-in-southern-nigeria-1.349896)

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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