**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief -** **Friday, 6 September 2013**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENERAL | **Across Regions** | Global food prices fall in August, FAO ups crop forecasts |
|  |  | African UN troops raise stakes for Rwanda in Congo crisis |
| CEE/CIS | **Serbia** | Finance minister says has backing for "serious" reform |
| EAPR | **Cambodia** | Garment workers protest in Cambodian capital |
|  |  | Cambodia tightens security as opposition ready to protest over poll results |
|  | **Thailand** | Thai rubber farmers clash with police; 24 hurt |
| ESAR | **Across ESAR** | Displacement follows clashes on Kenya-Ethiopia border |
|  | **Kenya** | Kenya parliament votes to withdraw from ICC |
|  | **Madagascar** | African Union lifts sanctions on Madagascar president |
|  |  | 2 killed in riot in northern Madagascar |
|  | **Somalia** | Somali Islamist rebels suspended from Twitter again |
| MENA | **Across MENA** | Palestinians from Syria nearly half of initial estimates |
|  | **Egypt** | Egypt minister warns of terrorism wave after assassination attempt |
|  |  | Egypt to decide soon on dissolving Brotherhood NGO |
|  |  | Morsi supporters protest across country |
|  | **Iraq** | Kurdistan gets three hours to build for 5,000 refugees - UNICEF mention |
|  |  | Iraq to impose traffic restriction in Baghdad to stem violence |
|  | **Lebanon** | UN to cut refugee aid in Lebanon amid funding gaps |
|  |  | Lebanon boosts security at foreign embassies |
|  | **Morocco** | Morocco's African immigrants fear rising racism tide |
|  | **Sudan** | ‘Food shortages and suffering for 129,000 displaced in South Darfur’: HAC |
|  |  | ‘Second attack on NGO’s North Darfur HQ this week’: witness |
|  | **Syria** | Syria sends reinforcements to Christian village |
|  |  | Syria rebels withdraw from Christian town: Coalition |
|  | **Yemen** | Yemen's main pipeline attacked, one tribesman injured |
| ROSA | **Afghanistan** | "Escape from Taliban" author shot dead in Afghanistan |
|  | **India** | India floods: More bodies recovered in Uttarakhand |
|  | **Maldives** | Maldives president calls for peaceful elections day ahead of polls |
|  | **Pakistan** | Deadly drone strike hits Pakistan |
| TACR | **Across TACR** | Climate change threatens Caribbean's water supply |
|  | **Chile** | Students demand end to Pinochet education model |
|  | **Colombia** | Colombian president shuffles cabinet to meet challenges |
|  | **Honduras** | Dengue death toll rises to 21 |
|  | **Mexico** | Tropical Storm Lorena forms in Pacific |
| WCAR | **Across WCAR** | Cameroon struggles with thousands of Nigerian refugees |
|  | **DR Congo** | Rebels agree to resume peace talks |
|  | **Guinea** | Country poised to complete transition to civilian rule |
|  | **Guinea Bissau** | Ex-army chief calls for probe into US drug claims |
|  | **Nigeria** | Suspected Boko Haram gunmen kill 15 |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Global food prices fall in August, FAO ups crop forecasts**

Global food prices fell in August for the fourth month running, according to FAO which again raised its 2013/14 forecast for grain production. FAO said that cheaper food last month reflected declines in corn, wheat and edible oils prices. Food prices surged during the summer of 2012 due to a major drought in the US but prospects for a rebound in cereal supplies to record levels have reversed the price trend this year. The FAO price index, which measures monthly price changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar, averaged 201.8 points in August, about 1.9% below July's level and the lowest since June 2012. FAO said it expected global cereal production in 2013/14 to increase to a record 2.492 billion tonnes, up 0.5% from its July forecast and 7.7% higher than 2012 output. The FAO said it expected a 10.5% expansion in coarse grain output to 1.285 billion tonnes and a 7.6% rise in wheat production to 710 million tonnes in 2013/14.

**Reuters - [http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/food-fao-idUSL6N0H116220130905#](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/food-fao-idUSL6N0H116220130905)**

**African UN troops raise stakes for Rwanda in Congo crisis**

The deployment of a UN force of African troops in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo threatens to draw Rwanda into a damaging conflict with African powers and derail its economic "miracle" if donors again cut aid over Kigali's involvement there. President Paul Kagame has twice marched his troops over the border since Rwanda's 1994 genocide. One of the justifications he cited was his country's national security, the need to counter a threat Kigali said was posed by those behind the genocide who had found haven in eastern Congo. Rwanda, though, has usually managed to fend off criticism from Western allies who accuse Kigali of backing the M23 rebel group they say has stoked the conflict in a region rich in minerals with a population mired in poverty. Rwanda's fortunes took a tumble last year, when donors' patience snapped and they cut back on aid that accounts for about 40 percent of the budget after UN experts detailed Rwandan support for the M23 - charges Kigali vigorously denies.

Now Kigali faces a new test after a flare-up last month drew in a new UN intervention brigade of South African, Tanzanian and Malawian peacekeepers with a robust mandate to "neutralize and disarm" armed groups.

**Reuters - <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/us-rwanda-congodemocratic-analysis-idUSBRE9840SQ20130905>**

CEE/CIS

**Serbia**

**Finance minister says has backing for "serious" reform**

Serbia's new finance minister outlined on Thursday a plan to overhaul the tax system and bloated public sector and cut red tape, saying he is convinced he has the support of the fractious coalition government. The jury is still out on whether 28-year-old Lazar Krstic has the political clout to push through the kind of reforms that successive governments since the fall of Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 2000 have ducked. Krstic was handpicked by the ruling coalition's largest party, the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), but his boldest plans may face resistance from the left wing of the alliance.

**Reuters -** **[http://news.yahoo.com/serbian-finance-minister-says-backing-serious-reform-171739039--business.html#](http://news.yahoo.com/serbian-finance-minister-says-backing-serious-reform-171739039--business.html)**

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Garment workers protest in Cambodian capital**

About 4,000 Cambodian garment workers have protested in Phnom Penh after a factory supplying global brands including GAP and H&M fired hundreds of their colleagues for striking over insufficient wages. The demonstrators said on Thursday that the Singapore-owned SL Garment Processing factory fired 720 workers a day earlier while more than 5,000 others were suspended after a two-week long strike. They had walked out claiming intimidation over regular factory inspections carried out by an official flanked by military police. The workers marched about 10km from the factory to the capital's City Hall to urge the government to intervene in the dispute.

**Al Jazeera - [http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/09/201395185632425802.html#](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/09/201395185632425802.html)**

**Cambodia tightens security as opposition ready to protest over poll results**

Cambodia has beefed up security around the capital before the opposition's planned mass protest on Saturday against the contested election results which brought victory to Prime Minister Hun Sen's party. Security forces have conducted inspections on cars or trucks entering Phnom Penh through streets surrounding the city in recent days. Armed forces and armored vehicles have been deployed around the capital since early last month after the opposition has repeatedly threatened to call mass protests. On Sunday, about 2,000 anti-riot police armed with shields and batons got a special training session at the capital's Diamond Island Center in preparation for dealing with disobedient protests.

**Xinhua -** **[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c\_132698021.htm#](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c_132698021.htm)**

**Thailand**

**Thai rubber farmers clash with police; 24 hurt**

Protesters demanding farmer subsidies to offset losses from falling world rubber prices clashed with police in southern Thailand, throwing bricks and acid-containing bottles at the officers, authorities said. Twenty police officers and four rescue volunteers were injured in the clash Thursday evening as protesters blocked a main road in Bang Saphan district in Prachuap Khirikhan province, Deputy Prime Minister Pracha Promnok said Friday. He said one of the officers had a concussion and was being treated in intensive care. Video footage from television channel ThaiPBS showed masked protesters throwing glass bottles and shooting slingshots at police early Friday morning on a main road in Bang

Saphan, which is 366 kilometers (227 miles) south of Bangkok. It also showed two cars were set on fire near the protest site.

**AP -** **[http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thai-rubber-farmers-clash-police-20164721#](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thai-rubber-farmers-clash-police-20164721)**

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Displacement follows clashes on Kenya-Ethiopia border**

Thousands of families remain displaced from the northern Kenya district of Moyale, close to the Ethiopian border, following the latest spate of clan violence, which has left at least two dozen dead since it broke out on 30 August. Aid agencies say they have been unable to conduct a comprehensive assessment of humanitarian needs, essential for providing emergency assistance to populations in some of the district's more volatile areas. Two days of inter-clan fighting among the Gabra, Burji and Borana communities saw houses torched, gunfire exchanged and business come to a standstill in the areas of Somare and Teti. The violence has since subsided, but tension remains high in the area. Education officials say all 32 primary and secondary schools in Moyale remained closed on 2 September, as all both teachers and students remained displaced, too afraid of renewed violence to return home. The violence is believed to be part of a series of revenge attacks that began when the Borana and Gabra clashed on 15 July, leaving one dead and three.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98701/displacement-follows-clashes-on-kenya-ethiopia-border**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98701/displacement-follows-clashes-on-kenya-ethiopia-border)

**Kenya**

**Kenya parliament votes to withdraw from ICC**

Kenya's parliament has voted to back a call for the government to pull out of the International Criminal Court, where the country's president and his deputy are facing trial for crimes against humanity. The motion "to suspend any links, cooperation and assistance" to the court was overwhelmingly approved by the National Assembly on Thursday. Parliament is dominated by the alliance that brought President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto to power in a March vote. The two men are accused of orchestrating post-election bloodshed more than five years ago. Both deny the charges. Many Kenyan politicians have branded the ICC a "neo-colonialist" institution that only targets Africans, prompting the debate on a possible departure from the Rome Statute of the ICC.

**Al Jazeera -** **[http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/201395151027359326.html#](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/201395151027359326.html)**

**Madagascar**

**African Union lifts sanctions on Madagascar president**

The African Union lifted sanctions Thursday against Madagascan President Andry Rajoelina and his backers imposed three years ago to encourage negotiations after he seized power in a coup, officials said. The ending of sanctions, imposed in March 2010 exactly one year after Rajoelina, a former disc jockey, took power with the help of the army, comes as Madagascar moves towards a much-delayed presidential election. The vote is designed to end the country's long running political crisis.

**AFP -** **[http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130905/african-union-lifts-sanctions-madagascar-president#](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130905/african-union-lifts-sanctions-madagascar-president)**

**2 killed in riot in northern Madagascar**

Two people were killed and six others injured in a riot in Ambilobe, a northern town in Madagascar, local police said on Thursday. The drama happened in Ambilobe on Wednesday when a robbery suspect was arrested by the police and put in custody. Local people rushed to the police station to demand the execution of the suspect, and they searched for other suspects in the town of Ambilobe in order to kill them directly. The police did not release the suspect, a fact which pushed the people to rob the police station and set the suspect on fire, killing him on the spot. In self-defense, the officers guarding the police station opened fire, injuring six people. The injured were evacuated to a nearby hospital, but one of them died in hospital. The death ignited the anger of Ambilobe's people, who looted the police station and torched their goods. The national gendarmerie helped the police to strengthen and maintain the security in Ambilobe after the drama.

**Xinhua -** **[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-09/05/c\_132695151.htm#](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-09/05/c_132695151.htm)**

**Somalia**

**Somali Islamist rebels suspended from Twitter again**

The Twitter account of Somalia's Al Qaeda-linked Shebab insurgents was suspended Friday, the second time this year the Islamists have been pushed off the site. A message from Twitter on the English-language @HSMPress1 account read that the account was suspended, without elaborating. Earlier this week the group used the site to claim they had ambushed the convoy of war-torn Somalia's internationally backed President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. "Next time, you won't be as lucky," the Islamists tweeted after their attack, which the president escaped unharmed. Twitter warns that accounts can be suspended if users publish "direct, specific threats of violence against others".

**AFP - [http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-06/230240-somali-islamist-rebels-suspended-from-twitter-again.ashx#axzz2e66umy4g](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-06/230240-somali-islamist-rebels-suspended-from-twitter-again.ashx" \l "axzz2e66umy4g)**

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Palestinians from Syria nearly half of initial estimates**

After a lengthy verification process, the UN Relief and Works Agency put the final head count of Palestinians coming from Syria and remaining in Lebanon at 45,000, lower than original estimates, its country director announced Thursday. The verified number is almost half that of initial registration rates, which put 93,000 as the number of Palestinians displaced from Syria in Lebanon. The new reduced figure indicates that there is much cross-border activity among Palestinians coming and going back, UNRWA country director Ann Dismorr told The Daily Star.

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2013/Sep-06/230206-palestinians-from-syria-nearly-half-of-initial-estimates.ashx#axzz2e66umy4g**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2013/Sep-06/230206-palestinians-from-syria-nearly-half-of-initial-estimates.ashx#axzz2e66umy4g)

**Egypt**

**Egypt minister warns of terrorism wave after assassination attempt**

Egypt's interior minister survived an assassination attempt unscathed on Thursday when a car bomb blew up next to his convoy and gunmen strafed his vehicle, prompting him to warn that a wave of terrorism by opponents of the military-installed government was just beginning. The minister, Mohamed Ibrahim, has been involved in overseeing a violent crackdown on supporters of Mohamed Mursi, the elected Islamist president who was overthrown on July 3 by the army following mass protests against his rule. No organization immediately claimed responsibility for the first attempt to kill

an Egyptian minister since the 1990s, but it appeared to bear the hallmarks of an Islamist attack.

**Reuters -** **[http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE9840BP20130905?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews#](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE9840BP20130905?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)**

**Egypt to decide soon on dissolving Brotherhood NGO**

Egypt is expected to announce soon whether or not to dissolve an NGO linked to the Muslim Brotherhood amid allegations it operates as a front for the Islamist group. On August 14, the authorities launched a fierce crackdown on the Brotherhood following the army's July 3 ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who hails from the group. Top Brotherhood leaders, including its supreme guide, have been arrested, effectively decapitating the movement and disrupting its organisation. "The decision will be announced in a few days," said Hani Mhana, spokesman for the ministry of social security which has received complaints about the NGO's operations.However, a media adviser to the cabinet said no decision has yet been taken on the issue.

**AFP -** **<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5guL1mbnE9_Bld6cYQqeuhTxdXDqw?docId=CNG.f619b2835c6fbb0af390cc5da2452514.451>**

**Morsi supporters protest across country**

Supporters of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and the nation's ousted president are protesting across the country against the military-backed government. Thousands of protesters flowed out of mosques after Friday prayers in the cities of Ismailiya, Suez, Assiut, Alexandria and the capital Cairo, among others. The protesters chanted "down with military rule" and waved Egyptian flags. Others held up pictures of toppled President Mohammed Morsi, who was ousted by the military in a July 3 coup after mass protests against him. The Brotherhood called Friday's protests for "the people to protect the revolution," in reference to the uprising that ousted longtime autocratic ruler Hosni Mubarak in early 2011.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-morsi-supporters-protest-country-20175492**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-morsi-supporters-protest-country-20175492)

**Iraq**

**Kurdistan gets three hours to build for 5,000 refugees - UNICEF mention**

Syrian refugees who fled into Iraqi Kurdistan said they were particularly victimized because of their Kurdish background. Trucks cut through the dry makeshift streets, spreading dust over the tops of the tents stretching through Kawergosk Refugee Camp near Arbil, Iraq’s Kurdish province. Three weeks ago, this was empty land on the edge of a tiny town. In August the mayor of the Khabat district, west of Arbil, got a call from the UNHCR. He was told he had three hours to prepare for the arrival of about 5,000 Syrian refugees, mostly ethnic Kurds. Since then, the camp has become home to about 15,000 Syrian refugees. Acknowledging that camp residents could be there for a long time, UNICEF is creating a school for the camp children and a health center. An additional 5,000 refugees have been sent to a camp near Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan’s second largest city.

**CSM -** [**http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2013/0904/Iraqi-Kurdistan-gets-three-hours-to-build-for-5-000-refugees#**](http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2013/0904/Iraqi-Kurdistan-gets-three-hours-to-build-for-5-000-refugees)

**Iraq to impose traffic restriction in Baghdad to stem violence**

The Iraqi government on Thursday announced that a traffic restriction will be imposed on the streets of Baghdad in an apparent move to combat the increasing car bombings in the capital. The measure imposed by the General Directorate of Traffic of the Iraqi Interior Ministry will come into effect on Saturday and last until further notice, allowing cars with even and odd license numbers to take daily turns to go out, the Iraqiya TV channel reported. The report did not give any specific reason for the measure, but it is widely regarded as a move to deal with the increasing violence in the country, in particular more and more frequent car bomb attacks in Baghdad. Taxis, trucks and certain government vehicles will be exempt from the regulation, according to the report.

**Xinhua - [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c\_132695486.htm#](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c_132695486.htm)**

**Lebanon**

**UN to cut refugee aid in Lebanon amid funding gaps**

The UN refugee agency is to cut food aid to more than a quarter of Syrian refugees in Lebanon starting next month, partly as a result of a massive shortfall in funding. From October, UNHCR will move to "targeted assistance," as it struggles to assist a refugee population of at least 720,000 people in Lebanon. "We will have to switch to targeted assistance and cut some of our direct funding in part because of the shortfall in funds," UNHCR spokeswoman Roberta Russo told AFP. "Our campaign sought $1.7 billion for Lebanon, and that is only 27 percent funded," she added, saying aid agencies were making "difficult decisions" every day about how to use limited aid money. Russo said a transition from blanket assistance of all refugees to a focus on the most vulnerable was not unusual when dealing with such a crisis.

**AFP -** **[http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/96918-u-n-to-cut-refugee-aid-in-lebanon-amid-funding-gaps#](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/96918-u-n-to-cut-refugee-aid-in-lebanon-amid-funding-gaps)**

**Lebanon boosts security at foreign embassies**

Lebanese authorities said on Friday they had boosted security measures at foreign diplomatic missions ahead of any international military action against neighbouring Syria. The decision was announced after a meeting of Lebanon's security council, called by President Michel Sleiman amid a US-led push for strikes against Damascus in response to the regime's alleged use of chemical weapons. A presidency statement said the council met "in light of the tensions resulting from preparations for potential military action and the regional and international responses that could follow". The council noted "measures taken to ensure domestic stability, reassure citizens, protect diplomatic missions and fight against terrorism". The meeting, which included the prime minister and security service chiefs, comes as US President Barack Obama seeks congressional approval for military action against Syria.

**AFP - <http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/251982-lebanon-boosts-security-at-foreign-embassies.html>**

**Morocco**

**Morocco's African immigrants fear rising racism tide**

Ismaila Faye, 31, was stabbed to death near the capital’s central bus station during an argument with a Moroccan over seating, according to the preliminary investigation. Local media highlighted the racist nature of the attack, sparking concerns of a rise in hostile behaviour towards black Africans, many of whom pass through Morocco illegally in their quest to reach Europe and a new life. A week after the murder, hundreds of mostly Senegalese immigrants gathered outside the morgue in Rabat to pay homage to the victim and protest against racism. Moroccans have also been active on social media to denounce violence against the African community. But their coexistence with Moroccans is often fraught with difficulty.

**AFP/Sapa -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/09/06/morocco-s-african-immigrants-fear-rising-racism-tide**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/09/06/morocco-s-african-immigrants-fear-rising-racism-tide)

**Sudan**

**‘Food shortages and suffering for 129,000 displaced in South Darfur’: HAC**

The Humanitarian Aid Commissioner for Girayda locality in South Darfur, El Tayeb Suleiman, has acknowledged that more than 129,000 displaced persons in the locality are facing “a shortage of food and real suffering”. Suleiman told Radio Dabanga that the displaced have not received any food rations since July, and have been sharing what little they have left. He warned that “a humanitarian disaster might occur in the locality, because the population have not been able to farm their lands this year due to security instability,” referring to the deaths of more than 16 farmers in attacks. The commissioner also confirmed that the World Food Programme (WFP) required the displaced to provide a barrel of petrol for each of the 23 trucks that must transport the food. This has been echoed by reports from the Girayda displaced.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/55566#**](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/55566)

**‘Second attack on NGO’s North Darfur HQ this week’: witness**

The headquarters of the medical NGO Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Tawila was reportedly attacked on Tuesday, the second such attack on the compound in less than two days. A witness told Radio Dabanga that two militiamen opened fire on the headquarters at 11pm, seriously injuring two guards. However, the source said that the security situation has prevented Adam Hamid Ahmed and Adam Issa Said from being transferred to hospital in state capital El Fasher. The gunmen allegedly made off with a vehicle belonging to the NGO.

**Radio Dabanga -** **[https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/55568#](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/55568)**

**Syria**

**Syria sends reinforcements to Christian village**

Activists say the Syrian government has dispatched reinforcements to a predominantly Christian village north of Damascus where rebels have clashed with regime troops this week. The director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the government forces sent to Maaloula include tanks and armored personnel carriers. Rami Abdul-Rahman says that they have taken up positions outside the village, which is still under the control of local pro-regime militias. Al-Qaida-linked rebel factions attacked Maaloula on Wednesday, and briefly entered the mountainside sanctuary before withdrawing late Thursday. Abdul-Rahman says the two sides were skirmishing around the village on Friday.

**AP -** [**http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-09-06/syria-sends-reinforcements-to-christian-village**](http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-09-06/syria-sends-reinforcements-to-christian-village)

**Syria rebels withdraw from Christian town: Coalition**

Syrian rebels who seized an entry to a Christian town north of Damascus this week have now withdrawn to protect religious and archaeological sites there, an opposition statement said. "Free Syrian Army (FSA) units on Wednesday destroyed posts at Maalula and Jabadine held by the army on the Damascus-Homs road after fierce clashes with President Bashar al-Assad's forces and auxiliaries," the Syrian National Coalition said overnight. "The FSA was stationed for several hours in the vicinity, but did not attack any church or convent," the statement added. The Coalition stressed its "commitment to protect all Syrians, no matter what their religion, race, confession or political belief, and its constant concern to preserve Syria's human and religious heritage by every means possible".

**AFP - <http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/syria-rebels-withdraw-from-christian-town-coalition_874641.html>**

**Yemen**

**Yemen's main pipeline attacked, one tribesman injured**

Armed tribesmen bombed Yemen's main oil pipeline on Thursday, a government official said, adding that one of the assailants was wounded by the explosion. The attack is the third on the country's main pipeline in Maarib province in less than a week. The pipe stopped carrying crude after the first attack on Sunday. Tribesmen often carry out such attacks to put pressure on the government to meet demands including jobs, land disputes or freeing relatives from prison. Yemen, which relies on crude exports to finance up to 70 percent of budget spending, has suffered frequent bombings of its main pipeline in the central Maarib province since an anti-government uprising broke out in 2011.

**Reuters -** **[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-05/230117-yemens-main-pipeline-attacked-one-tribesman-injured.ashx#axzz2e66umy4g#](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-05/230117-yemens-main-pipeline-attacked-one-tribesman-injured.ashx#axzz2e66umy4g)**

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**"Escape from Taliban" author shot dead in Afghanistan**

An Indian author whose story was told in the movie "Escape from Taliban" was shot dead after returning to Afghanistan to make a documentary about women, police said on Friday. The killing of Sushmita Banerjee, 49, on Wednesday was the latest in a series of attacks on women in the conservative Islamic country, adding to concern that hard-won women's rights are eroding ahead of next year's withdrawal of most international forces. The Afghan Taliban denied involvement. Banerjee, who told her story of life under the Islamist Taliban in "A Kabuliwala's Bengali Wife", was dragged from her house in lawless southeastern province of Paktika and shot as many as two dozen times, police said.

**Reuters - <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/06/entertainment-us-afghanistan-author-idUSBRE98508P20130906>**

**India**

**India floods: More bodies recovered in Uttarakhand**

Rescue workers in the Indian state of Uttarakhand have recovered 75 bodies from the debris of June's devastating floods, taking the official toll to 528, police said. The bodies were found near a destroyed bridge and a mountain in Ramabada. Thousands were swept away after floods and landslides affected more than 4,000 villages. In July, the government said that more than 5,700 people missing after the floods would be presumed dead. Their families will be given financial compensation. This year's early monsoon rains in the Uttarakhand region are believed to be the heaviest in 80 years.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23974450**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-23974450)

**Maldives**

**Maldives president calls for peaceful elections day ahead of polls**

A day ahead of crucial presidential polls, Maldives president has called for restraint to ensure peaceful elections and urged people to accept its outcome. Addressing the nation in a televised broadcast, President Mohammed Waheed said all citizens must prioritize national peace and harmony over other interests. He called on people to ensure that even the weakest are able to exercise their right to vote freely and asked them to accept the election result. According to Waheed, only the Maldivian people can decide who will become their leader for the next five years. "Democracy is the will of the majority. Nonetheless, democracy is not a perfect system. Of all existing forms of government, democracy is believed to be the best form of government by the majority of people, “said the president.

**Xinhua -** **[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c\_132698044.htm#](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c_132698044.htm)**

**Pakistan**

**Deadly drone strike hits Pakistan**

Missiles fired by a suspected US drone aircraft have killed at least seven fighters in Pakistan's Pashtun tribal region on the Afghan border, local residents said. In the early hours of Friday, drones fired two missiles on a compound in the village of Dargah Mandi in North Waziristan, destroying the house and killing seven people. Pakistani security officials said all those who were killed were "militants". The area where the attack took place is known as a stronghold for the Haqqani network, which regularly attacks US forces in Afghanistan from its mountain hideouts in Pakistan.

**Al Jazeera -** **[http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/09/20139653129144863.html#](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/09/20139653129144863.html)**

TACR

**Across TACR**

**Climate change threatens Caribbean's water supply**

Experts are sounding a new alarm about the effects of climate change for parts of the Caribbean — the depletion of already strained drinking water throughout much of the region. Rising sea levels could contaminate supplies of fresh water and changing climate patterns could result in less rain to supply reservoirs in the coming decades, scientists and officials warned at a conference in St. Lucia this week. "Inaction is not an option," said Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Caribbean land and water officer for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "The water resources will not be available." Some of the possible solutions include limits on development, increased use of desalination plants and better management of existing water supplies, but all face challenges in a region where many governments carry heavy debts and have few new sources of revenue. Many Caribbean nations rely exclusively on underground water for their needs, a vulnerable source that would be hit hard by climate change effects, said Jason Johnson, vice president of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, a Trinidad-based nonprofit group.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/climate-change-threatens-caribbeans-water-supply-20174235#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/climate-change-threatens-caribbeans-water-supply-20174235)

**Chile**

**Students demand end to Pinochet education model**

Tens of thousands of students marched to demand an end to the educational system inherited from late dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet as Chile prepares to mark the 40th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power. Police estimated the size of the crowd at 25,000, while organizers said some 80,000 people filled Santiago's main thoroughfare to call for free, quality public education. Seven people, five of them police, were injured in minor disturbances at the end of the march. Similar protests took place in other Chilean cities as part of a nationwide mobilization convened by groups representing high school and college students and the educators' professional association.

**EFE - [http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/130905/chilean-students-demand-end-pinochet-education-model#](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/130905/chilean-students-demand-end-pinochet-education-model)**

**Colombia**

**Colombian president shuffles cabinet to meet challenges**

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos replaced five ministers Thursday in a bid to overcome months-long strikes and achieve a peace agreement with rebel guerrillas. The president appointed Aurelio Iragorri Valencia as interior minister, Alfonso Gomez Mendez as justice minister, Ruben Dario Lizarralde to agriculture, Amilkar Acosta Medina to mines and energy, and Luz Elena Sarmiento to environment and sustainable development. All the new ministers are members of the governing National Unity party.

**Xinhua -** **[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c\_132698193.htm#](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/06/c_132698193.htm)**

**Honduras**

**Dengue death toll rises to 21**

Deaths caused by the dengue mosquito have risen in Honduras, according to El Nuevo Herald on Wednesday. Officials reported the death of four people. Miriam Paz, the Vice Minister of Health said, "The rise in cases is taking place despite state efforts to destroy the hatcheries of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito in the middle of rain season." El Nuevo Herald also reported that so far in the summer of 2013, the deaths of 21 people have been recorded during the rain season, which starts in May and ends in November across Honduras. In Honduras, close to 152 out of 298 municipalities have been affected, which amounts to 52 percent of the country's entire territory. The most affected cities are: Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Juticalpa and Choluteca.

**Latinos Post -** [**http://www.latinospost.com/articles/26988/20130905/honduras-deaths-dengue-deathtoll-rises-21-rains-complicates-security-against.htm**](http://www.latinospost.com/articles/26988/20130905/honduras-deaths-dengue-deathtoll-rises-21-rains-complicates-security-against.htm)

**Mexico**

**Tropical Storm Lorena forms in Pacific**

Tropical Storm Lorena continues to move to the northwest in the Pacific, off the Mexico coast. The US Hurricane Center in Miami reported that Lorena is located 177 kilometers west of Cabo Corrientes, Mexico. It has maximum sustained winds of 64 kph and is moving at 19 kph. A tropical storm watch has been issued for Baja California Sur from Agua Blanca to Buenavista. Some strengthening is possible over the next day or two, and forecasters say Lorena will be nearing the southern portion of Mexico's Baja California peninsula early on 7 September. The storm is expected to bring 3 to 5 inches of rain to the southwest coast of Mexico and the southern portion of the Baja California peninsula, with some areas potentially getting as much as 10 inches.

**AP - [http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tropical-storm-lorena-forms-pacific-off-mexico-20171828#](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tropical-storm-lorena-forms-pacific-off-mexico-20171828)**

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Cameroon struggles with thousands of Nigerian refugees**

Thousands of people have fled northeastern Nigeria since mid-May when the Nigerian military began an offensive against the militant Islamist sect, Boko Haram. Neighboring countries like Cameroon have been confronted with a double challenge as they try to meet the needs of civilians fleeing violence, while also trying to prevent infiltration by Boko Haram militants. It is difficult to know exactly how many people have arrived. UN agencies have counted between 3,000 and 8,000 refugees. Local government and civil society sources say that number is closer to 20,000 and that it is mostly women and children. The Boko Haram insurgency has been raging in northern Nigeria since 2010. Thousands

have been killed. The militant sect wants to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria. The state launched a large-scale military offensive against Boko Haram in mid-May.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/cameroon-struggles-with-thousands-of-nigerian-refugees/1744122.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/cameroon-struggles-with-thousands-of-nigerian-refugees/1744122.html)

**DR Congo**

**Rebels agree to resume peace talks**

Rebels from the DR Congo's M23 movement reported that they will resume peace talks with the government, agreeing to a demand from leaders of Africa's Great Lakes region. Talks between the two sides were suspended in May, and the agreement to reopen them follows a recent upsurge in violence in the country, where Congolese troops backed by a special United Nations force launched a fresh assault against the rebels late last month. A M23 leader reported that the rebels were ready to resume talks with Kinshasa following months of deadlock. "Our delegates are already in Kampala. They are ready to negotiate with Kinshasa immediately as soon as the request has been passed on by the mediator," he said. The rebel leader said he hoped the talks would address the "deep-seated causes of the conflict" and that Kinshasa would "really get involved". The Congolese government cautiously welcomed the M23's announcement.

**AFP - [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ib3sX7noNokYX7AsLuGCUh0vl9YQ?docId=CNG.7725b4ad211ce1904ada135ddf5d29ff.241&hl=en#](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ib3sX7noNokYX7AsLuGCUh0vl9YQ?docId=CNG.7725b4ad211ce1904ada135ddf5d29ff.241&hl=en)**

**Reuters - <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/us-congo-democratic-talks-idUSBRE9840ZG20130905>**

**Guinea**

**Country poised to complete transition to civilian rule**

Guinea’s parliamentary election, to be held later this month, will establish a legislative assembly and complete a transition to civilian rule that has been delayed for nearly five years. But the long-overdue poll is fraught with political and ethnic tensions that analysts say hinder reforms and progress. The legislative election was supposed to be held six months after the 2010 presidential poll that brought President Alpha Condé to power, but after protracted disputes between the government and the opposition, Guineans will instead vote on 24 September of this year.

**IRIN - [http://www.irinnews.org/report/98699/guinea-poised-to-complete-transition-to-civilian-rule#](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98699/guinea-poised-to-complete-transition-to-civilian-rule)**

**Guinea Bissau**

**Ex-army chief calls for probe into US drug claims**

Guinea-Bissau's former army chief is calling for an independent commission to investigate accusations that he is involved in drug trafficking, the military reported, adding that a probe would clear his name. The US charged Antonio Indjai in April with drug trafficking and seeking to sell arms to Colombian insurgents, although he has not been extradited and remains in Bissau. He is accused of four counts of conspiring to sell surface-to-air missiles to Colombia's FARC rebels to shoot down US patrol helicopters and of seeking to import huge amounts of cocaine into the United States. The charges against Indjai came less than two weeks after similar trafficking accusations were brought against

Guinea-Bissau's former navy chief and four others arrested for an alleged transatlantic plot.

**AFP - [http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Guinea-B-ex-army-chief-wants-drug-probe-20130905-3#](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Guinea-B-ex-army-chief-wants-drug-probe-20130905-3)**

**Nigeria**

**Suspected Boko Haram gunmen kill 15**

Gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram Islamists stormed the northeast Nigerian town of Gajiran on Thursday, opening fire in a market and killing 15 people, residents said. Borno state in the northeast, Boko Haram’s stronghold where the latest violence occurred, has seen a spate of similar attacks on locals in recent weeks. Gajiran residents speaking to journalists in the state capital Maiduguri said the gunmen pretended to be traders attending a local market. “Some of them came aboard trucks while others came on foot to beat the security checks at the entrance of the town,” resident Ibrahim Bulama said. They then “blended among traders conducting business”, before opening fire in the market, killing 15 people, he told reporters. Another local speaking to journalists in Maiduguri, Aisami Yusuf, also put the death toll at 15 and provided a similar account. Gajiran is roughly 85 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital.

**AFP -** [**http://en.starafrica.com/news/suspected-boko-haram-gunmen-kill-15.html#**](http://en.starafrica.com/news/suspected-boko-haram-gunmen-kill-15.html)

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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