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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Sudanese refugees in Chad face disease, hunger, soaring prices**

The Sudanese refugees of camp Farchana in eastern Chad have complained of a high mortality rate, especially among children and pregnant women, from malaria and diarrhoea. Officials blamed the failure to bridge, drain and spray the pools of standing water left by the autumn rains.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/chad/sudanese-refugees-chad-face-disease-hunger-soaring-prices**](http://reliefweb.int/report/chad/sudanese-refugees-chad-face-disease-hunger-soaring-prices)

**Dirty water and poor hygiene stunting growth of millions**

Simply providing children with clean water and soap could make them grow taller, according to the first scientific review of its kind. Improving the quality of water and hand-washing could add half a centimeter on average to the height of children under five – as it is thought that dirty water and poor hygiene can increase the risk of infection in the child’s stomach, reducing the amount of nutrients that can be absorbed.

**Independent -** [**http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/dirty-water-and-poor-hygiene-stunting-growth-of-millions-8740748.html**](http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/dirty-water-and-poor-hygiene-stunting-growth-of-millions-8740748.html)

**DR Congo unrest: Rwanda 'recruiting for M23 rebels'**

Four Rwandans have told the BBC the army forcibly recruited them to fight for the M23 rebel group in neighbouring eastern DRC. The four said they were seeking asylum in Uganda after fleeing the fighting. The Rwandan army dismissed their claim, saying they must have made up their stories to get asylum.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23519330#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23519330)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Turkish troops use teargas to stop "smugglers" entering from Syria**

Turkish soldiers shot into the air and fired teargas this week to prevent hundreds of people described by the military as smugglers from trying to cross into Turkey from Syria. In two separate incidents, groups of up to 2,000 people have approached the border with the "attempt to engage in smuggling", the army said in a statement. In both incidents, the groups threw stones at the Turkish military patrol which used their vehicles to block the border at the town of Ogulpinar, in Hatay province, which is home to several Syrian refugee camps housing thousands escaping Syria's civil war.   
**Reuters** - [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130730171555-9fb6b/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130730171555-9fb6b/?source=hptop)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Tropical Storm Jebi threatens Vietnam, China**

Flash floods triggered by heavy rain have killed at least five people in northern Vietnam since the weekend, with more rain expected as a tropical storm in the South China Sea heads toward the country. Tropical storm Jebi is expected to pass China’s Hainan province and make landfall in northeastern provinces of Vietnam on 3 August.

**WSJ** - [**http://blogs.wsj.com/searealtime/2013/08/01/floods-kill-five-in-vietnam-as-tropical-storm-approaches/**](http://blogs.wsj.com/searealtime/2013/08/01/floods-kill-five-in-vietnam-as-tropical-storm-approaches/)

**Cambodia**

**PM says ready for talks with opposition**

Cambodia's long-serving leader, Hun Sen, said his party was ready to talk to the opposition after both sides claimed victory in general election, talking of the need for compromise but calling himself "prime minister elect". The election campaign and voting on Sunday were largely peaceful but Phnom Penh remains tense because of the political stand-off. Police and the military are maintaining a presence on the streets, although business is mostly back to normal.  
**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/31/us-cambodia-election-idUSBRE96U06T20130731**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/31/us-cambodia-election-idUSBRE96U06T20130731)

**Opposition sets conditions on talks**

Cambodia's opposition is insisting that an independent committee to investigate allegations of cheating in the recent election be established before it holds talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party on establishing a new government. The opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party declared its conditions Thursday after Hun Sen's offer to hold party-to-party talks and support a probe into the polls.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-opposition-sets-conditions-talks-19834508**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-opposition-sets-conditions-talks-19834508)

**DPR of Korea  
More long-range rocket launches expected 'soon'**

Specialists following North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile development concur the reclusive state is nearly certain to continue launching long-range rockets which may be intended to improve its capability to fire weapons of mass destruction. A North Korean official in Pyongyang last week told VOA News that another launch of the Unha series vehicle will occur “soon” as part of the country's “peaceful use of space.”  
**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/nkorea-claim-of-more-long-range-rocket-lauches-seen-as-credible/1713495.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/nkorea-claim-of-more-long-range-rocket-lauches-seen-as-credible/1713495.html)

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar floods force 25,000 into relief camps**

Nearly 25,000 people have been evacuated to makeshift camps after floods ravaged eastern Myanmar, an official said Wednesday, as relief teams struggled to reach remote areas inundated by water. Flood waters have risen dramatically after several days of heavy rain in Karen State forcing thousands to flee to nearly 80 relief camps, Chum Hre, director of the social welfare, relief and resettlement department told AFP. Seven Thai provinces remained flooded on Wednesday, the Interior Ministry said in its daily update.

**PKT -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-111796-Myanmar-floods-force-25,000-into-relief-camps--**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-111796-Myanmar-floods-force-25,000-into-relief-camps--)

**Thailand**

**Government beefs up security powers for anti-govt protests**

The Thai government invoked a special security law to control planned anti-government protests in central Bangkok, after a series of violent rallies rocked Bangkok in recent years. The Thai People's Army, a newly-formed coalition of ultra-royalist groups who despise the Puea Thai ruling party and its exiled figurehead Thaksin Shinawatra, has vowed to protest in Bangkok on 4 August, possibly for several days. It is targeting a government-backed bill, due to be introduced in parliament on 7 August and proposing an amnesty for those involved in several bouts of political violence that have convulsed the nation since a 2006 coup toppled Thaksin.

**AFP** - [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/thailand-beefs-up/762080.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/thailand-beefs-up/762080.html)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Somalia polio outbreak places Ethiopia at risk - UNICEF mention**

Somalia’s Ministry of Health confirms there are now 94 cases of polio in south-central Somalia and the outbreak is showing no signs of slowing down. New cases of the disease near the border with Ethiopia have also put that country at risk. Another case also has been confirmed in the autonomous region of Somaliland, close to Ethiopia, and could easily be transmitted across the border. Another 10 cases of polio also have been confirmed across the border with Kenya, in the Dadaab refugee camps. UNICEF said that in May, a two-year-old girl in Somalia was confirmed to have contracted polio, becoming the first case in the country since 2007.  
**VoA** - [**http://www.voanews.com/content/somalia-polio-outbreak-places-ethiopia-at-risk/1712895.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/somalia-polio-outbreak-places-ethiopia-at-risk/1712895.html)

**Somalia**

**Last person to get smallpox dedicated his life to ending polio**

So far, the human race has eliminated just one disease in history: smallpox. But it's on the cusp of adding a second virus — polio — to that list. One special man in Somalia was at the battlefront of both eradication efforts. He died unexpectedly last week at age 59 of a sudden illness. Ali Maow Maalin was the last member of the general public to catch smallpox — worldwide.   
**NPR -** [**http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/07/31/206947581/last-person-to-get-smallpox-dedicated-his-life-to-ending-polio**](http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/07/31/206947581/last-person-to-get-smallpox-dedicated-his-life-to-ending-polio)

**South Sudan**

**Kiir appoints new ministers, leaves out vice-president**

South Sudan president Salva Kiir on Wednesday issued a decree appointing 19 cabinet ministers and 10 deputies, a week after he dissolved the entire government. The president, in several decrees read on the state-owned SSTV, left unoccupied the position of the vice-president and minister for the presidency. Several new faces were elevated to cabinet in the 31 July decree, issued under Article 112 (1) of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan-republic/south-sudan%E2%80%99s-kiir-names-new-cabinet-leaves-out-vp-post**](http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan-republic/south-sudan%E2%80%99s-kiir-names-new-cabinet-leaves-out-vp-post)

**Zimbabwe**

**Mugabe party claims 'emphatic' election victory**

A senior member of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe’s party claimed Thursday that the veteran leader had won a comprehensive victory in the fiercely fought presidential election. “We have won, all of them including the presidential and parliamentary,” a top party member told AFP, saying Mugabe had won against his long-time rival Morgan Tsvangirai and that the party has retaken many urban parliamentary seats.  
**AFP -** [**http://reporters365.com/around-the-world/mugabe-party-claims-emphatic-election-victory-lead/**](http://reporters365.com/around-the-world/mugabe-party-claims-emphatic-election-victory-lead/)

**Tsvangirai rejects vote as 'huge farce'**

While a senior member of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe’s ruling party claimed it had “buried” its rival MDC in Wednesday's election, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai called the vote a "huge farce" as official results were awaited. A senior member of Zimbabwe’s ruling ZANU-PF party claimed a landslide victory for President Robert Mugabe the day after polling – while its rival, Prime Minster Morgan Tsvangirai’s Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), said there had been “monumental fraud” in the vote.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130801-zimbabwe-election-mugabe-zanu-tsvangirai-mdc-vote**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130801-zimbabwe-election-mugabe-zanu-tsvangirai-mdc-vote)

MENA

**Egypt**

**UNICEF calls for protection of children amid ongoing protests, violence**

UNICEF has voiced deep concern at reports that children have been killed or injured during the recent violent confrontations in Egypt. “Disturbing images of children taken during street protests indicate that, on some occasions, children have been deliberately used and put at risk as potential witnesses to or victims of violence,” Philippe Duamelle, UNICEF Representative in Egypt, said in a statement. “Such actions can have a long-lasting and devastating physical and psychological impact on children,” he noted. “We call on all Egyptians and political groups not to exploit children for political ends, and to protect them from any potential harm.”

**UN** - [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45540&Cr=egypt&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45540&Cr=egypt&Cr1)**=**

**Protesters defy cabinet threat to end sit-ins**

Thousands of supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi have defied a new warning from the military-backed cabinet and are continuing their sit-ins in the capital, Cairo. The country's interim leaders have ordered police to end ongoing protests at two sites in the city. But Mr Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood said they had no option but to continue the month-long sit-ins.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23527015#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23527015)

**Libya**

**Gaddafi minister sentenced to death**

A criminal court in the western city of Misrata has sentenced a Gaddafi-era education minister to death for murder and for inciting violence during the 2011 civil war. A judge found Ahmed Ibrahim guilty of inciting residents in Muammar Gaddafi's hometown of Sirte to form armed gangs and fight the rebels that were seeking to overthrow the Libyan dictator.  
**AP -** [**http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/gaddafi-minister-sentenced-to-death-in-libya-8740769.html**](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/gaddafi-minister-sentenced-to-death-in-libya-8740769.html)

**Syria**

**Fighting rages for town in chemical weapons row**

Syrian troops attacked rebel positions outside Khan al-Assal as they seek to recapture the northern town at the center of rival chemical weapons accusations, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. Fierce fighting erupted on the outskirts of the town, which the rebels seized last week inflicting heavy losses on the army, the Observatory said. The army lost 150 soldiers over two days, 50 of them summarily executed after their capture in an act condemned by the mainstream opposition leadership.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130731/fighting-rages-town-syria-chemical-weapons-row**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130731/fighting-rages-town-syria-chemical-weapons-row)

**UN chemical weapons inspectors to visit Syrian sites**

Syria has agreed to allow UN investigators to visit three sites where chemical weapons have allegedly been used, the UN has said. The inspectors will go "as soon as possible", a statement from Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's office said. They are expected to investigate three locations of suspected use, including one in Khan al-Assal, outside Aleppo. Some 27 people were killed in attacks allegedly involving chemical weapons in the northern town earlier this year.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23524536#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23524536)

**United Nations may fall short in food aid**

The United Nations’ food agency reported that it might not be able to meet its goal of aiding three million Syrians in July. The WFP, had reached only 2.4 million people as fighting intensified in areas near Damascus and Homs. A senior spokesperson for the food agency in Washington, said that it had 700 trucks in the country, but that convoys had been unable to reach many distribution points in the past several weeks.

**NYTimes** - [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/31/world/middleeast/united-nations-may-fall-short-in-food-aid-for-syria.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/31/world/middleeast/united-nations-may-fall-short-in-food-aid-for-syria.html?_r=0)

**Yemen**

**U.S. drone strike kills four Al-Qaeda suspects**

A U.S. drone killed four al-Qaeda suspects in Yemen on Thursday, a security official said, in the third such strike in five days as the Yemeni president prepared for White House talks. Yemen’s U.S.-backed campaign against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Pensinsula (AQAP) was expected to be high on the agenda of Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi’s talks with President Barack Obama later on Thursday. Washington regards AQAP, a merger of militants in Yemen and neighboring Saudi Arabia, as the worldwide jihadist network’s most active and dangerous branch.  
**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/08/01/U-S-drone-strike-kills-four-Qaeda-suspect-in-Yemen.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/08/01/U-S-drone-strike-kills-four-Qaeda-suspect-in-Yemen.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**UN reports rise in civilian casualties**

Violence against civilians is on the rise in Afghanistan as international forces hand over security to Afghans, the UN has said. The organisation put the mid-year toll of civilians killed at more than 1,300 in a report published on Wednesday. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said 1,319 civilians died and 2,533 were injured as a result of the war from January 1 to June 30, up 23% from the same period in 2012.

**Aljazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/201373185853938732.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/201373185853938732.html)

**2 police killed, 8 wounded in northern blast**

Two Afghan policemen were killed and eight others wounded on Thursday morning when a roadside bombing struck their vehicle in northern Faryab Province, said the deputy provincial governor. "Afghan National Police (ANP) personnel were travelling in an area in Bilchiragh District at around 9am local time. Their vehicle touched off an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). As a result, the district anti-criminal police chief Zahir Khan and an ANP cop were killed and eight policemen were wounded," Abdul Satar Bariz told Xinhua.  
**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/01/c\_132593738.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-08/01/c_132593738.htm)

**Bangladesh**

**Restraint urged after protest deaths**

At least 150 protesters and a dozen security forces have been killed during street demonstrations in Bangladesh over the past six months, a rights group said Thursday urging both sides to show restraint and warning of more violence. Opposition parties and religious and political activists have made multi-pronged challenges against the government this year.  
**AP -** [**http://world.time.com/2013/08/01/restraint-urged-after-protest-deaths-in-bangladesh/**](http://world.time.com/2013/08/01/restraint-urged-after-protest-deaths-in-bangladesh/)

**Court declares top Islamist party illegal**

Bangladesh’s main Islamist party was banned from contesting next year’s election when the high court ruled on Thursday that Jamaat-e-Islami’s charter breached the country’s secular constitution. “It is hereby declared illegal,” said Moazzem Hossain, the chief judge hearing the case amid tight security outside the courthouse in Dhaka.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.arabnews.com/news/459856**](http://www.arabnews.com/news/459856)

**India**

**Protests, strike over new state**

Protests erupted on Wednesday in southeast India a day after the national ruling coalition approved the creation of a new state, leading to hundreds of arrests, police and reports said. Protests were staged in the coastal and southern regions of Andhra Pradesh state against the creation of Telangana state, while a strike shut some schools and businesses, police and witnesses said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/protests-strike-over/762334.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/protests-strike-over/762334.html)

TACR

**Mexico**

**A Modest decline of homicides**

Violence caused by the drug war in Mexico may be abating, according to figures released this week by the government. The data showed a modest decline in homicides in 2012, the first in six years. Mexico’s census agency, compiling reports of murders from the 32 federal entities, said there were 26,037 homicides last year, a 4.3% decline from 27,213 in 2011, which was the most in recent years. The homicide rate was 22 per 100,000 residents, a decline from 24 per 100,000 the previous year.  
**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/world/americas/a-modest-decline-of-homicides-in-mexico.html?ref=americas**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/world/americas/a-modest-decline-of-homicides-in-mexico.html?ref=americas)

**Uruguay**

**Lawmakers vote to legalize marijuana**

Uruguay’s lower house late Wednesday night approved a sweeping bill to legalize marijuana, opening the way for the authorities to create one of Latin America’s most ambitious nationwide endeavors in overhauling drug policy. Following hours of debate, legislators in Uruguay’s capital, Montevideo, voted 50 to 46 in favor of the legislation, which now goes to the Senate, where lawmakers have assured President José Mujica that they have a comfortable majority to approve it.  
**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/world/americas/uruguay-lawmakers-to-vote-on-legalizing-marijuana.html?ref=americas&\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/world/americas/uruguay-lawmakers-to-vote-on-legalizing-marijuana.html?ref=americas&_r=0)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Child soldiers in CAR**

According to UN figures, 3,500 children under the age of 18 are members of the country's various armed groups, many of whom joined the ranks of the Seleka rebels who overthrew President Francois Bozize in March.

**AFP** - [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h-fANLFY73SzJQ3gxv7XPNSrWBaQ?docId=CNG.ff134c3c3242e2563cb7419afde4a30a.5a1&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h-fANLFY73SzJQ3gxv7XPNSrWBaQ?docId=CNG.ff134c3c3242e2563cb7419afde4a30a.5a1&hl=en)

**Cote d'Ivoire**

**UN Security Council extends ONUCI mandate to 2014**

The UN Security Council has extended until 30 June 2014 the mandate of its peacekeeping mission to Cote d’Ivoire (ONUCI) and trim the size of its force in the West African country from 10,400 to 7,137 troops. Resolution 2112 was unanimously adopted by the 15 members of the Security Council on Tuesday and warned that “the situation prevailing in Cote d’Ivoire continues to undermine the peace and security of the region”.

**APA** - [**http://en.starafrica.com/news/un-security-council-extends-onuci-mandate-to-2014.html**](http://en.starafrica.com/news/un-security-council-extends-onuci-mandate-to-2014.html)

**UN gives rebels 48 hours to leave Goma**

The United Nations on Tuesday gave M23 rebel forces 48 hours to leave Goma or face "the use of force." A new intervention brigade will be used for the first time to help the DR Congo army set up a "security zone" in the city, which has come under renewed threat from the rebel forces in recent weeks, the UN said.  A statement by the UN mission in DR Congo, MONUSCO, gave M23 rebels in Goma until 4:00pm (2000 GMT) on Thursday "to hand in their weapon to a MONUSCO base" and join a demobilization program.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hEqg0wuKWvu4TW2QdIj5h7m03TTA?docId=CNG.9027c2647107ab5444e4a456b403a9f3.251**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hEqg0wuKWvu4TW2QdIj5h7m03TTA?docId=CNG.9027c2647107ab5444e4a456b403a9f3.251)

**Mali**

**Election 'marred by ballot-stuffing'**

The party of Malian presidential candidate Soumaila Cisse said Wednesday the election had been marred by "ballot stuffing" and demanded the resignation of the minister responsible for the polls. The accusation came after it emerged that, with about a third of the ballots in Sunday's first round counted, former prime minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita had taken a wide lead over Cisse and the other candidates.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jcBQXhBXLv\_aOQ\_eGX66T6RpmNQA?docId=CNG.bbdc9856642453d008c0e4218db666d8.4f1**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jcBQXhBXLv_aOQ_eGX66T6RpmNQA?docId=CNG.bbdc9856642453d008c0e4218db666d8.4f1)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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