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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Israeli-Palestinian talks begin amid deep divisions**

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators held their first peace talks in nearly three years on Monday in a U.S.-brokered effort that Secretary of State John Kerry hopes will end their conflict despite deep divisions. Top aides to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas began the talks over an iftar dinner - the evening meal with which Muslims break their daily fast during Ramadan - hosted by Kerry at the State Department.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-palestinians-israel-idUSBRE96S0SY20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-palestinians-israel-idUSBRE96S0SY20130730)

**Obama extends sanctions on those destabilizing Lebanon**

US President Barack Obama on Monday extended for one year the existing sanctions on those involved in destabilizing Lebanon. The United States and Israel regard Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group and a major political force in Lebanon with close ties to Syria and Iran, as a terrorist organization. The European Union blacklisted the military wing of the group last week mainly over its involvement in the conflict in neighboring Syria.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/30/c\_132586039.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/30/c_132586039.htm)

**U.S. pushes for global eye on South Sudan conflict**

When the National Security Council, the most buttoned-up part of a buttoned-up Obama administration, is aggressively trying to get the word out about a violent, murky conflict in a distant land, it’s worth listening to. It’s also worth asking, why single out this crisis? Such is the case with the ethnic and tribal clashes that are rippling through a remote, sprawling part of South Sudan known as Jonglei State.   
**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/30/us/us-pushes-for-global-eye-on-south-sudan-conflict.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/30/us/us-pushes-for-global-eye-on-south-sudan-conflict.html?_r=0)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey PKK sets ultimatum for peace deal**

Kurdish separatist group warns Ankara that deal will fail if reforms are not implemented within a month. The new leaders of the armed Kurdish separatist group PKK have given a warning to Turkey. The two sides are trying to work through a peace deal. But the PKK has told Turkey that if it does not implement reforms within a month, the deal will fail.  
**Aljazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/video/europe/2013/07/20137291195529967.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/video/europe/2013/07/20137291195529967.html)

EAPR

**Myanmar**

**UN expert welcomes latest release of prisoners, warns of ongoing arrests**

A United Nations independent expert today welcomed Myanmar’s latest release of prisoners of conscience, but raised concerns over ongoing arrests of activists in the country. Last week, President Thein Sein granted amnesty to 73 prisoners of conscience, as part of a series of reforms initiated two years ago following the establishment of a new Government. Mr. Sein stated during a recent visit to Europe that all remaining prisoners of conscience would be freed by year’s end.  
**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45516&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45516&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1)**=**

**Philippines**

**8 BIFF men slain, 3 wounded in Maguindanao fighting**

At least eight fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters were killed and three others wounded during clashes in Maguindanao province Tuesday morning, authorities said. The driver of an oil tanker that the rebels fired on in a failed attempt to stop the vehicle and use it as a roadblock was also wounded. The clashes caused the temporary closure of the highway linking Cotabato and General Santos cities and sent civilians fleeing their homes in three villages of Guindulungan town.  
**InterAksyon -** [**http://www.interaksyon.com/article/67500/8-biff-men-slain-3-wounded-in-maguindanao-fighting**](http://www.interaksyon.com/article/67500/8-biff-men-slain-3-wounded-in-maguindanao-fighting)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Eritrea ‘continues support’ to Somalia’s Al-Shabab, says Ethiopia**

In fresh allegations made by Ethiopia on Monday, the East African nation said that efforts to maintain peace and stability in Somalia is taking longer due to Eritrea’s continued support of the Islamist militia group, Al-Shabab. The Ethiopian government said despite ongoing efforts by regional governments and the African Union peace keeping force (AMISOM), Eritrea continues to undermine peace efforts in war-ravaged Somalia.  
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47469**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47469)

**Envoy ordered to get journalists released**

The government has ordered its embassy in South Sudan to secure the release of two Ugandan journalists who were arrested in Juba at the weekend over working without accreditation. Ambassador James Mugume, the permanent secretary of Foriegn Affairs, yesterday said he has ordered Maj Gen Robert Rusoke, Uganda’s ambassador in South Sudan, to handle the matter. Journalists Justin Dralaze and Hilary Ayesiga are reportedly detained at the National Security headquarters in Juba. Efforts to reach Maj Gen Rusoke were futile as his mobile phone was switched off.

**Daily Monitor** - [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ugandan-envoy-ordered-to-get-journalists-released/-/688334/1930954/-/115i1blz/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ugandan-envoy-ordered-to-get-journalists-released/-/688334/1930954/-/115i1blz/-/index.html)

**Zimbabwe**

**Vote puts AU, SADC in the dock**

With many international observers barred from covering Zimbabwe's crunch election Wednesday, two African blocs are becoming the eyes and ears of the world in a stern test of their credibility. When Robert Mugabe's government released the list of roughly 50 countries and groups invited to observe this week's crunch presidential and parliament elections, there were few surprises.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/zimbabwe-vote-puts-au-sadc-in-dock/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/zimbabwe-vote-puts-au-sadc-in-dock/)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**New Lebanon border protocol targets Syrians**

For Syrians, entry into Lebanon is not as easy as it used to be. An undeclared political decision has been implemented to toughen up entry requirements for Syrians crossing into Lebanon. Though Lebanese authorities will not expel displaced Syrians, they have begun raising alarm bells now that the number of Syrians in Lebanon has reached almost 1.2 million.  
**Al-akhbar -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/new-lebanon-border-protocol-targets-syrians?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+%28Al+Akhbar+English%29**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/new-lebanon-border-protocol-targets-syrians?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+%28Al+Akhbar+English%29)

**Egypt**

**EU's Ashton meets ousted leader Morsi**

The EU foreign policy chief held two hours of talks with the ousted Egyptian president as she pressed efforts on Tuesday to broker an end to an increasingly bloody crisis. Catherine Ashton's intensive talks with leaders of both the army-installed interim government and the Islamist opposition came as supporters of Mohamed Morsi vowed no let-up in their demonstrations for his reinstatement despite weekend clashes that left 82 people dead.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/eu-ashton-meets-ousted-egypt-leader-morsi/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/eu-ashton-meets-ousted-egypt-leader-morsi/)

**At least 15 Cairo street vendors killed in fight**

At least 15 people have been killed in a brawl between Cairo street vendors over space, including 13 who were burned to death, a security source reported. The source said two people died of gunshot and stab wounds in an initial brawl in central Cairo on 29 July night, and 13 more were killed after the shop they took refuge in was set on fire. The source said the fight broke out between street vendors and shopowners in the Moski area in Old Cairo.

**AP -** [**http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/world/cairo-street-vendors-killed-in-fight/story-e6frfkui-1226687845870**](http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/world/cairo-street-vendors-killed-in-fight/story-e6frfkui-1226687845870)

**Iraq**

**UN leader warns Iraq on 'the brink'**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned on 29 July that Iraq is on "the brink" after more coordinated attacks killed scores of Muslim Shiites, a spokesman said. Ban is "alarmed" by the worsening security in Iraq, said deputy UN spokesman Eduardo del Buey."Iraq is at another crossroads," Ban was quoted as saying by the spokesman. "Its political leaders have a clear responsibility to bring the country back from the brink, and to leave no space to those who seek to exploit the political stalemate through violence and terror

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130729-un-leader-warns-iraq-brink**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130729-un-leader-warns-iraq-brink)

**Lebanon**

**Al Qaeda Exploiting sectarian divisions**

Exploiting sectarian divisions and the ongoing war in neighboring Syria, jihadists are moving into the Mediterranean country to use it as a power base. Jihadists affiliated with Al Qaeda are forming alliances with radical Sunni groups in Lebanon, infiltrating the country in a bid to use it as a base for global jihad and to recruit for the civil war in neighboring Syria.  
**Daily Beast -** [**http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/07/29/al-qaeda-s-play-for-lebanon.html**](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/07/29/al-qaeda-s-play-for-lebanon.html)

**Libya**

**Two killed in clashes as blast rocks Benghazi**

Clashes on 29 July between a Libyan brigade affiliated with the army and an armed group in the city of Sirte killed two people. Four people were injured in the clashes, which continued for several hours, prompting government and other offices to close in the city, the official LANA news agency reported. Also on 29 July, a car bomb exploded in the city of Benghazi but caused no casualties, witnesses said.

**DPA** - [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/two-killed-in-libya-clashes-as-blast-rocks-benghazi\_291774.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/two-killed-in-libya-clashes-as-blast-rocks-benghazi_291774.html)

**Saudi Arabia Saudi arrests Shias after gunbattle**

Saudi security forces arrested nine Shia after a gunbattle in the oil-rich east, one of them wanted over protests among the minority community, a Saudi-owned newspaper reported on Tuesday. The nine were overpowered without casualty on Monday after the firefight in Awamiya, a protest flashpoint in the Sunni-ruled kingdom's Eastern Province, interior ministry spokesman Mansur al-Turki told pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/77788/World/Region/Saudi-arrests-Shias-after-gunbattle-Report.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/77788/World/Region/Saudi-arrests-Shias-after-gunbattle-Report.aspx)

**Sudan**

**134 people killed in clashes in Darfur**

Some 134 people have been killed in new clashes between two rival tribes in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region, a tribal leader said on Tuesday. Conflict has raged through the vast western region since 2003 when African tribes took up arms against the Arab government in Khartoum, accusing it of neglect.  
**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/uk-sudan-darfur-idUKBRE96T0IB20130730**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/uk-sudan-darfur-idUKBRE96T0IB20130730)

**Car bomb kills Syrian Kurd politician near Turkish border**

A prominent Syrian Kurdish politician was assassinated early on Tuesday outside his home near the Turkish border when a bomb planted in his car exploded, Kurdish political sources said. Isa Huso, a member of the foreign relations committee in the Higher Kurdish Council, a group formed to unite Syrian Kurdish parties, was leaving his house in the Syrian town of Al Qamishli when the bomb exploded at around 0300 GMT (4.00 a.m. British time), the sources said.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/uk-syria-crisis-kurd-killing-idUKBRE96T0GY20130730**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/uk-syria-crisis-kurd-killing-idUKBRE96T0GY20130730)

**Syria**

**Thousands abducted in war**

A UN rights envoy on 29 July highlighted the plight of thousands of people who have been abducted in the Syrian war. Women gather outside government detention centers carrying photos of husbands and sons in the hope that they have been seen inside, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, head of an inquiry into Syria, told the UN General Assembly. "One of the most insidious aspects of the Syrian conflict has been the disappearance of thousands of people from their homes, at checkpoints and from the streets," Pinheiro told the General Assembly.

**AFP** - [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130729-thousands-abducted-syria-war-un-investigator**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130729-thousands-abducted-syria-war-un-investigator)

**Red Crescent volunteers and beneficiaries injured during relief distribution**

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) has reported that nine volunteers, two staff and three beneficiaries were injured when a distribution point in al-Qusur was hit with a mortar shell yesterday morning. The organization said it was committed to providing humanitarian assistance in the area to those in need regardless of their political or religious affiliation. It called on all parties to the conflict to respect its mission and its emblems.  
**ICRC -** [**http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/middle-east-and-north-africa/syria/syrian-arab-red-crescent-volunteers-and-beneficiaries-injured-during-the-relief-distribution-62923/**](http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/middle-east-and-north-africa/syria/syrian-arab-red-crescent-volunteers-and-beneficiaries-injured-during-the-relief-distribution-62923/)

**Troops capture key neighborhood in Homs**

Government troops captured a neighborhood Monday in the embattled city of Homs that has been a rebel stronghold since the beginning of the Syrian uprising, dealing another blow to beleaguered opposition forces in the center of the country, according to the state media. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights activist group, however, denied that regime forces had seized all of the district of Khaldiyeh, saying there was still scattered fighting in southern areas of the neighborhood.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/syrian-tv-troops-capture-key-neighborhood-in-embattled-homs-city/?test=latestnews**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/syrian-tv-troops-capture-key-neighborhood-in-embattled-homs-city/?test=latestnews)

**Italian Jesuit Father abducted by Al Qaida-linked militia**

Expelled last year from Syria, where he had spent 30 years of his life, openly opposed the regime and worked for a peaceful solution to the conflict, Italian Jesuit Father Paolo Dall'Oglio was allegedly kidnapped on Monday by a militant group close to Al Qaida which is part of the uprising against President Bashar al- Assad. According to the sources cited by Reuters, the abductors are members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, an organization linked to Al Qaida and Syrian jihadist groups fighting the regime.

**ANSAmed -** [**http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2013/07/30/Syria-Jesuit-8217-Oglio-abducted-Al-Qaida-linked-milit\_9094254.html**](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/generalnews/2013/07/30/Syria-Jesuit-8217-Oglio-abducted-Al-Qaida-linked-milit_9094254.html)

**Tunisia**

**Militants kill eight troops near Algeria border**

Militants killed eight Tunisian soldiers on 29 July, the president's office and state TV said, in what appeared to be one of the biggest attacks on the country's security forces in decades. They staged the ambush near the Algerian border at a time of rising political turmoil in Tunisia, which has seen large protests against the moderate Islamist-led government. One resident of the Mount Chaambi area said Islamist militants appeared to be responsible.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/29/uk-tunisia-army-attack-idUKBRE96S0WI20130729**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/29/uk-tunisia-army-attack-idUKBRE96S0WI20130729)

**PM says government won't quit despite calls, promises elections by Dec. 17**

Tunisia's prime minister says the government will not step down despite opposition demands. He also promises to finish the constitution by October and hold elections on Dec. 17. Ali Larayedh gave a defiant press conference Monday that made clear the Islamist-led government would not give in to the mounting calls to dissolve the elected assembly and form a national unity government following a political assassination.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/tunisian-pm-says-government-wont-quit-despite-opposition-calls-promises/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/tunisian-pm-says-government-wont-quit-despite-opposition-calls-promises/)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Forces fill 50 militants**

Afghan authorities say 50 militants, including foreign fighters, have been killed over a 24-hour period in a security operation in the country's east. The Afghan Defense Ministry said in a statement that the dead insurgents included Pakistani, Arab, Uzbek, and Chechen nationals. On July 29, the ministry claimed Afghan forces had killed 83 militants in a separate weeklong offensive in the east.  
**DPA -** [**http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan-militants/25061021.html**](http://www.rferl.org/content/afghanistan-militants/25061021.html)

**India**

**Violence feared as government moves to approve new state**

India's ruling party was expected Tuesday to approve the creation of a new state in the southeast amid fears the decision will spark violence in the region which includes IT hub Hyderabad. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress party president Sonia Gandhi and other senior leaders were set to hold talks later Tuesday over longstanding demands for the state of Telangana to be carved out of Andhra Pradesh state.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-111638-Violence-feared-as-India-moves-to-approve-new-state**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-111638-Violence-feared-as-India-moves-to-approve-new-state)

**Pakistan**

**Taliban free 243 in Dera Ismail Khan**

Taliban militants have freed 243 prisoners in an assault on a prison in north-west Pakistan, officials say. The attack in the town of Dera Ismail Khan began with huge explosions at around midnight on Monday (15:00 GMT). Gunmen then opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-guns, police chief Sohail Khalid said. About 70 attackers were in police uniform.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23493323**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23493323)

**Housework not homework for millions of children - UNICEF mention**

Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai’s speech at the UN in New York calling for “free, compulsory education all over the world for every child” is a reminder that back in her home country several million children are out of school, exploited for their labour, and/or abused. The most recent annual State of Pakistan’s Children report, published in May by the Islamabad-based NGO Society for the Protection and Rights of the Child (SPARC), found that out of 120 countries in the world, Pakistan has the second largest number of children out of school (after Nigeria), with 5.1 million children aged 5-9 not attending an educational institution

**IRIN** - [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98479/housework-not-homework-for-millions-of-children-in-malala-s-pakistan**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98479/housework-not-homework-for-millions-of-children-in-malala-s-pakistan)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Policemen tried over Carandiru jail massacre**

The trial has begun in Brazil of 26 policemen accused of killing dozens of inmates during a prison riot in Sao Paulo in 1992. Witnesses say riot police began shooting at random as they stormed the Carandiru prison. In half-an-hour, 111 prisoners were killed in what became known as the Carandiru massacre.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23498231**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23498231)

**Mexico**

**3 Cartels Suspected in Officer's Killing Caught**

Three alleged members of the Knights Templar drug cartel have been detained in the killing of one of Mexico's highest-ranking navy officers and a bodyguard, Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam said Monday. The killings of the admiral and another naval officer serving as his bodyguard marked a rare attack on Mexico's top military brass, but appeared to have been the result of a series of tragic coincidences rather than a planned, targeted assassination.  
**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-nabs-cartel-suspects-officers-killing-19809457**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-nabs-cartel-suspects-officers-killing-19809457)

WCARO

**Rights abuses on both sides in DRC conflict**

As fighting continues in North Kivu Province between the Democratic Republic of Congo’s (DRC) army and the rebel group M23, both sides have been accused of committing human rights abuses against each other and civilians, some of which amount to war crimes, according to rights groups. Earlier this year, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported the M23 rebel movement in eastern DRC had committed war crimes; a second major report by HRW, released 22 July, finds M23’s war crimes have continued.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98490/rights-abuses-on-both-sides-in-drc-conflict**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98490/rights-abuses-on-both-sides-in-drc-conflict)

**Mali**

**Country praised for successful election**

Malian and French leaders on Monday praised the high turnout and smooth running of Mali's presidential vote, the first election since a coup last year led to an Islamist insurgency. There were no reports of violence in Sunday's poll despite threats to "strike" polling stations by armed Islamists who had occupied northern Mali before being ousted in January by a French-led military occupation. The European Union's observation mission reported that turnout was around 50 percent, putting paid to pessimism over the vote's viability.  
**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/mali-praised-successful-election**](http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/mali-praised-successful-election)

**Nigeria**

**Bombs kill 15 in Kano**

Multiple bomb blasts in the city of Kano killed 15 people on 29 July, a senior policeman said, in an area previously targeted by militant group Boko Haram. Several witnesses said they saw dead bodies after hearing multiple blasts at around 9:30 p.m. in the Sabon Gari district, a predominantly Christian area dominated by ethnic Igbos from the southeast. "In all bomb attacks 15 were killed," the policeman in Kano reported. A military spokesperson confirmed there had been a bomb explosion but gave no further details.   
**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/29/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE96S13B20130729**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/29/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE96S13B20130729)

**Togo**

**Opposition rejects ruling party win**

Togo's main opposition on Monday rejected provisional electoral results showing the ruling party winning two-thirds of parliamentary seats, allowing the president's family to maintain its decades-long grip on power. The main opposition coalition, Let's Save Togo, had alleged irregularities even before full results in Togo's parliamentary elections were announced by the electoral commission on Sunday night.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/togo-opposition-rejects-ruling-party-win/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/29/togo-opposition-rejects-ruling-party-win/)

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