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CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Country 'dangerous' for asylum-seekers: UNHCR**

Ukraine is a "dangerous" destination for asylum seekers, the Kiev office of UNHCR said Tuesday, after the high-profile disappearance of a Russian activist who was allegedly kidnapped by the security services and sent back home. "If your request for refugee status is not satisfied then you are not only facing extradition, but also possible disappearance," the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) regional representative for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, Oldrich Andrysek, told reporters. In October last year, Russian opposition activist Leonid Razvozzhayev sought to obtain political asylum in Ukraine, but he was captured by unknown persons and then resurfaced in Russia. Opposition supporters accuse the Russian and Ukrainian special services of abducting him.

**AFP -** [**http://www.expatica.ru/news/local\_news/ukraine-dangerous--for-asylum-seekers-unhcr\_270832.html**](http://www.expatica.ru/news/local_news/ukraine-dangerous--for-asylum-seekers-unhcr_270832.html)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**14 Muslim Rohingya on trial for brawl in Indonesia**

A group of 14 Muslim asylum seekers from Myanmar went on trial Wednesday after a deadly brawl at an Indonesian detention center left eight Buddhist fishermen from their country dead. The violence occurred April 5 in North Sumatra province, where more than 100 ethnic Rohingya asylum seekers most intercepted off Indonesia's coast after fleeing Myanmar in rickety boats and 11 Buddhists from Myanmar accused of illegal fishing were being housed together. Eight Buddhists were killed, and 15 Muslim Rohingya were injured. Three other Buddhists escaped unharmed.

**AP -** [**http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\_id=2&objectid=10906342**](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10906342)

**Cambodia**

**Opposition threatens mass protest over polls**

Cambodia's opposition leader has threatened to call a nationwide protest against the hotly disputed election victory of the ruling party, unless the result of last poll is reversed. The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) has rejected the results of the closely fought poll that returned the ruling party to power, alleging it was robbed of victory by widespread voting irregularities. The CNRP has already called for a UN-backed probe into allegations that 1.25 million legitimate voters were culled from the electoral roll, while more than one million "ghost names" and a further 200,000 duplicated names were added to the list.

**AFP -** [**http://tuoitrenews.vn/international/11781/cambodia-opposition-threatens-mass-protest-over-polls**](http://tuoitrenews.vn/international/11781/cambodia-opposition-threatens-mass-protest-over-polls)

**China**

**China issues heat alert as 'hottest July' hits Shanghai**

Temperatures in parts of China have hit record highs, prompting an emergency level-two nationwide heat alert for the first time. In Shanghai, at least 10 people have died from heatstroke, as the city experiences its hottest July in 140 years, reports say. Local journalists have demonstrated the heat by frying meat on the pavement. The national heat alert covers nine provinces, including Anhui, Jiangsu, Hunan, Hubei, Shanghai and Chongqing. The China Meteorological Administration issued the level two emergency heat alert on Tuesday.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-23499175**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-23499175)

**Indonesia**

**Landslides, flooding kill 10 in the east**

Rescuers pulled 10 bodies from mounds of mud Tuesday after flooding and landslides triggered by torrential rains in eastern Indonesia sent thousands fleeing for safety and left four others missing, a disaster official said. The corpses were retrieved from five hamlets devastated by landslides and floods in Ambon, the capital of Maluku province, while more than 870 houses were flooded by an overflowing river, said Harmensyah, director of emergency relief at the Disaster Mitigation Agency. Authorities struggled to get tractors and bulldozers over washed-out roads.

**AP -** [**http://www.newarkadvocate.com/usatoday/article/2599035**](http://www.newarkadvocate.com/usatoday/article/2599035)

**Philippines**

**Six killed in Philippines communist rebel clash**

Six communist rebels were killed in a clash with government troops in the northern Philippines, an army commander said Wednesday. The clash erupted Tuesday evening in a village in Camiling town in Tarlac province, 135 kilometres north of Manila, according to the army. The fighting lasted until dawn on Wednesday, when troops recovered the bodies. The clash was the latest between government forces and communist rebels in the absence of formal negotiations on a settlement. Both sides say however that peace talks aimed at ending one of the longest-running leftist insurgencies in Asia have not collapsed.

**AFP -** [**http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/Application**](http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/Application)

**Thailand**

**Call for stronger security for teachers in south**

Stronger security is needed for teachers in government schools in Thailand’s south, where an on-going insurgency by separatist groups has left more than 150 teachers dead since 2004, say officials. “The best thing we need to do for teachers and workers in the education field is to strengthen security measures,” the Thai Education Minister reported. His comments come less than a week after a roadside bomb exploded in Chanae District in southern Narathiwat Province, killing two female teachers and seriously wounding one other, in what was described by local media as “the worst day for teachers for months”.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98494/call-for-stronger-security-for-thai-teachers-in-south**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98494/call-for-stronger-security-for-thai-teachers-in-south)

ESAR

**Rwanda**

**Country dismisses US charges it backs DRC rebels**

Rwanda dismissed on Tuesday US charges that it was supporting M23 rebels in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and said levelling accusations would not help pacify the region.  Western donors halted some aid to Rwanda last year after UN experts said Kigali was backing rebels in eastern Congo, a region racked by fighting since the 1990s that has in part been fuelled by a struggle to control rich mineral deposits there. In a report last month, U.N. experts said M23 continued to recruit fighters in Rwanda with the aid of sympathetic Rwanda military officers.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-congo-rwanda-rebels-20130730,0,3411429.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-congo-rwanda-rebels-20130730,0,3411429.story)

**Swaziland**

**Hunger costs 3% of GDP**

Around three in 10 young children in Swaziland are stunted by hunger, and 270,000 workers are also physically affected, an official reported, citing a government-backed study. The report, by the Swazi Government supported by the WFP, found that around 3.1% of GDP (or $92m) was lost annually due to the long-term fall out. According to the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study, 8% of child deaths are linked to under-nutrition. The chief economist in the Ministry of Planning said that the 12% rate of school year repetition in Swaziland is associated with stunting. When it comes to adults, some 270,000 -- roughly 40% of workers -- are physically affected due to chronic malnutrition in early childhood.

**AFP**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFiMXGIsb7pDmZSUyCkq4TwQkUFA?docId=CNG.dcd4e82fa13b68335fe3b31a4b5ccdb2.211&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFiMXGIsb7pDmZSUyCkq4TwQkUFA?docId=CNG.dcd4e82fa13b68335fe3b31a4b5ccdb2.211&hl=en)

**Zimbabwe**

**Riot police deploy on eve of tight election**

Heavily armed riot police deployed to potential election flashpoints in Zimbabwe on 30 July on the eve of a poll showdown between the President and the Prime Minister that remains too close to call. State radio said thousands of officers had been sent to the central Midlands province, while trucks of police carrying automatic rifles and grenade launchers patrolled in the restive Harare townships of Highfield and Mbare. Western election observers have been barred, leaving the task of independent oversight to 500 regional and 7,000 domestic monitors. The final results must be released within five days but may come sooner.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-zimbabwe-election-idUSBRE96T0IH20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-zimbabwe-election-idUSBRE96T0IH20130730)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Gaza rocket hits Israel as talks resume**

A rocket fired from Gaza hit southern Israel Tuesday, causing no casualties, a police spokesman said, as a first full day of resumed Middle East peace talks was to open. The attack came as senior Israeli and Palestinian envoys were to hold a first full day of talks in Washington after their formal resumption on Monday ending a three-year hiatus.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/gaza-rocket-hits-israel-as-talks-resume/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/gaza-rocket-hits-israel-as-talks-resume/)

**Algeria**

**Four soldiers killed in clashes**

Four Algerian soldiers have been killed in attacks in the east and south of the country, a security source and media reports said on Tuesday. "A home-made bomb went off as a national guard patrol passed by, killing two and wounding three," the French-language [Le Soir](javascript:void(0)) d'Algerie said.

El Watan daily reported that "one of the wounded died on Monday of his injuries" after being evacuated to a military hospital in the capital. The paper said the mountainous and remote region where the blast happened "is a known den of terrorists".

**AFP  -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-30/225649-four-algerian-soldiers-killed-in-clashes-reports.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-30/225649-four-algerian-soldiers-killed-in-clashes-reports.ashx)

**Iraq**

**10 killed, 42 wounded in separate bombings in Iraq**

Ten people were killed and 42 others wounded in separate bombings and shootings across Iraq Tuesday evening. Five people were killed and 16 wounded in a bomb explosion at a popular shop in the western part of Diyala's provincial capital Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. In a separate incident, a bomb went off during the sunset prayer at Siyd Mahdi Shiite mosque in the city of Tuz-Khurmato, some 170 km north of Baghdad, killing three worshippers and wounding 12 more, a local police source said.

**NewsEdge -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/31/c\_132590081.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/31/c_132590081.htm)

**Al Qaeda affiliate claims responsibility for bombings**

An al Qaeda-affiliated group said it orchestrated a wave of car bombings across Iraq that killed at least 60 people on Monday in revenge for the mistreatment of the country's Sunni community. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which was formed earlier this year through a merger between al Qaeda's affiliates in Iraq and Syria, said in a statement posted online that it had carefully selected its targets, which were mainly Shia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE96T0TA20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE96T0TA20130730)

**Jordan**

**Zaatari camp one year on: short term gains at risk without substantial increased support**

After only 12 months a piece of desolate Jordanian desert is now home to some 120,000 Syrian refugees. Today, Zaatari is the second largest camp in the world, the majority of those in the camp are women and children. It houses part of the total number of 507,000 refugees in Jordan, 10 times the refugee population it had in July 2012. Marking one year since the Zaatari camp opened is a tragic reminder of the catastrophic consequences of the Syrian crisis that has forced thousands of Syrians to flee across the border into Jordan and beyond.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70040.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70040.html)

**Libya**

**Government appoints new military chief**

The Libyan government said Tuesday it appointed a commander who fought during the revolution at its new military chief of staff. The Government appointed Col. Abdulsalam Jad Allah al-Salheen al-Obaidi as the new Chief of Staff Tuesday. His biography, published by the Libya Herald, says he's a special forces veteran who fought during the revolution against forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. He replaces Maj. Gen. Yousef al-Mangoush, who resigned in June following deadly clashes in Benghazi.

**UPI -** [**http://www.upi.com/Business\_News/Energy-Resources/2013/07/30/Libya-appoints-new-military-chief/UPI-78381375198342/**](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2013/07/30/Libya-appoints-new-military-chief/UPI-78381375198342/)

**Bomb wounds former policeman in Libya's Benghazi**

A bomb wounded a former police sergeant and critically injured his three-year-old son in Libya's second city Benghazi on Tuesday evening. "Unidentified assailants placed a bomb under the car of Ahmed al-Barnawi which exploded in a central district of Benghazi," the security source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. On Tuesday, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya condemned the violence "in the strongest terms" and called on the authorities to "intensify their efforts to address the security challenges that Libya is facing".

**AFP -** [**http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/Application?Content=News**](http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/Application?Content=News)

**Sudan**

**Grenade kills 9 children S. Kordofan**

Nine children have been killed by an unexploded grenade blast in Sudan's South Kordofan, a website based in the war-torn region says. The incident happened near Cham Chaka village southeast of Abu Kershola, said Nuba Reports, a website of “citizen reporters” in South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains battleground. It said the explosion happened when a group of youngsters found an unexploded rocket-propelled grenade

**AFP -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1032954/grenade-kills-nine-children-in-sudan-warzone-website**](http://dawn.com/news/1032954/grenade-kills-nine-children-in-sudan-warzone-website)

**Warring Darfur tribes say tentative ceasefire reached**

Warring tribes in Sudan's Darfur region said on Wednesday that they had reached a tentative ceasefire, after fighting which one of them said had killed more than 200 people. "Last night we reached an agreement to calm things down," Ahmed Khiri, a Misseriya tribal leader, told AFP. "I don't think there will be more fighting today or in the coming days." A leader of the rival Salamat tribe confirmed the two sides were trying to halt the violence in western Darfur. Both tribes said they would aim to reach a full peace agreement soon -- after an earlier pact collapsed.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/77886/World/Region/Warring-Darfur-tribes-say-tentative-ceasefire-reac.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/77886/World/Region/Warring-Darfur-tribes-say-tentative-ceasefire-reac.aspx)

**Syria**

**Air raids kill 11 children in Aleppo and Homs**

Seven children in the province of Aleppo and another four in Homs are among 17 civilians killed in air raids, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. The deaths in Homs come as troops pressed an offensive against remaining rebel areas there, while in Aleppo province, the raid comes exactly a year into the rebel takeover of the targeted town of Anadan. Meanwhile, militant rebels downed a military helicopter with a ground-to-air missile near Damascus airport, the Observatory said.

**AP -** [**http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/air-raids-kill-17-in-syrias-aleppo-homs/story-fnihsg6t-1226688449005**](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/air-raids-kill-17-in-syrias-aleppo-homs/story-fnihsg6t-1226688449005)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan civilian deaths increase; more women, child victims – UN**

Violence against civilians has risen by almost a quarter in Afghanistan as international forces hand security to Afghans, the United Nations said in a report on Wednesday, with insurgents striking in areas where troops have already left. The report, presented by the Human Rights Director for the U.N. in Afghanistan, said the number of dead and injured civilians had increased by 23 percent in the first six months of 2013, compared to the same period last year. Women and children are increasingly the victims of the 12-year-old war, the report said, noting a 30 percent leap in the number of children killed. The total civilian death toll stood at more than 1,300, with 2,533 reported injuries.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130731070727-9oq30/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130731070727-9oq30/?source=hpbreaking)

**India**

**Ruling coalition endorses new state in the south**

India's ruling coalition on Tuesday endorsed the creation of a new 29th state in southern India, a move that political analysts said could spur several other long-standing demands for separate states. The United Progressive Alliance coalition unanimously agreed to endorse the formation of a new state called Telangana to be carved out of Andhra Pradesh state, civil aviation minister Ajit Singh told reporters. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Congress party also backed the formation of the state. The large size of some of India's 28 states makes them difficult to administer and has prompted movements to divide them

**AP -** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Ruling-coalition-endorses-new-state-in-south-India-4695238.php**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Ruling-coalition-endorses-new-state-in-south-India-4695238.php)

**Pakistan**

**Gunmen attack polio team in Pishin, two policemen killed**

Gunmen attacked a polio vaccination team in Pishin district of restive Balochistan province on 30 July, killing two policemen who were providing security. The attackers opened fire as the team was going to administer polio drops in the Kona bazaar area. The campaign involved two male health workers to inoculate children under five years of age against the disease. No female worker is participating in the vaccination campaign after attacks on polio teams across the country over the past few months killed more than 20 people. No one has claimed responsibility for the killings.

**SANA -** [**http://www.sananews.net/english/gunmen-attack-polio-team-in-pishin-two-cops-killed/**](http://www.sananews.net/english/gunmen-attack-polio-team-in-pishin-two-cops-killed/)

**About 200 inmates escape in Pakistan Taliban attack on prison**

Taliban gunmen wearing police uniforms attacked the largest jail in a northern Pakistani province early Tuesday, allowing about 200 inmates to escape. Around 35 of the escaped prisoners are high-profile militants During the fighting that followed the assault at the prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan, four police officials and five militants were killed, said Shoukat Yousafzai, the provincial information minister

**CNN -** [**http://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/29/world/asia/pakistan-prison-attack/index.html?hpt=ias\_c1**](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/29/world/asia/pakistan-prison-attack/index.html?hpt=ias_c1)

**Police rearrest 47 prisoners from Pakistan jail break**

Police in northwest Pakistan have rearrested 47 prisoners who escaped during a sophisticated Taliban attack on a jail that killed 13 people, officials said on Wednesday. The prisoners were held late Tuesday and on Wednesday, with some handing themselves in and others caught in a police search operation, officials said. They included five women prisoners and a female police constable who had been taken hostage. Pakistani officials at the time said that at least 248 prisoners had escaped but on Wednesday they said a total of 252 prisoners got away, of whom 47 were now back in custody.

**VoA -** [**http://english.ruvr.ru/news/2013\_07\_31/Police-rearrest-47-prisoners-from-Pakistan-jail-break-9909/**](http://english.ruvr.ru/news/2013_07_31/Police-rearrest-47-prisoners-from-Pakistan-jail-break-9909/)

TACR

**Chile**

**UN criticises Chile for using terror law on Mapuche**

Ben Emmerson, the UN’s Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, criticized Chile for its treatment of the country's Mapuche indigenous minority. He said a long-running dispute over land rights could boil over into serious violence at any moment and that Chilean police were guilty of "a systematic use of excessive force". The Mapuche make up 9% of the Chilean population. Mr Emmerson said the state had repeatedly discriminated against the Mapuche and used anti-terrorism legislation against them "in a confused and arbitrary fashion that has resulted in real injustice".

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23512784**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23512784)

**Colombia**

**Country to charge militants for crimes**

Colombia will charge 13 paramilitary chiefs and three rebel chiefs with crimes against humanity for some of the worst atrocities in decades of civil strife. "We are talking about 16 crimes in which there were approximately 3,000 people killed. The Attorney General's office will be addressing 11,000 cases of serious rights violations," the country's top prosecutor reported. The guerrillas will be charged for war crimes, mainly kidnapping. The paramilitaries crimes covered a broader range, from kidnappings to sexual abuse to attacks on entire towns, he said.

**AP -** [**http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/colombia-to-charge-militants-for-crimes/story-fn3dxix6-1226688650069**](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/colombia-to-charge-militants-for-crimes/story-fn3dxix6-1226688650069)

**FARC wants politician involved in freeing US captive**

Colombia's FARC rebels said on Tuesday they are waiting for the Government to allow a leftist politician to be involved in coordinating the release of a former U.S. marine kidnapped last month before setting him free. President Juan Manuel Santos has refused to allow Piedad Cordoba, a former Senator specifically requested by the FARC, to be involved in the release of American Kevin Scott Sutay, who was seized as he trekked across dangerous jungle in eastern Colombia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-colombia-rebels-20130730,0,7934496.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-colombia-rebels-20130730,0,7934496.story)

**Honduras**

**Government declares emergency after dengue kills 16 people**

The Honduran Government has declared a state of emergency due to a dengue fever outbreak that has killed 16 people and sickened 12,000. The Health Minister says that the decree means the Government is making it a priority to prevent and control the disease and fight the mosquitoes that spread it. He says that more than half of Honduras' municipalities have registered dengue fever cases. Authorities say two Hondurans died last year from the disease and there were no deaths registered in 2011.

**AP -** [**http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Honduras-declares-emergency-after-dengue-kills-16-4696686.php**](http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Honduras-declares-emergency-after-dengue-kills-16-4696686.php)

**Paraguay**

**Farmers seize land where clash occurred**

Some 200 Paraguayan poor farmers have reoccupied land where six police officers and 11 farmworkers were killed last year in a violent eviction that led to the ouster of President Fernando Lugo. Police say the group's leaders are demanding the release of the 12 farmworkers charged in the eviction as well as compensation for the farmers. Farmworker Martina Paredes says they reoccupied the disputed soy farm because they believe it belongs to the state and not the family members of a late Senator.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/paraguay-peasants-seize-land-clash-occurred-19818082**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/paraguay-peasants-seize-land-clash-occurred-19818082)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Nigeria says to begin Mali troop pull-out**

Nigeria will begin withdrawing some of its 1,200 troops in Mali on 31 July and redeploy them in security operations at home, the military reported. Nigeria has been planning the withdrawal mainly due to the need for more soldiers to fight its own home-grown militant insurgency. "The troops are mainly those not accommodated in the structures of the newly formed United Nations ... mission in Mail," a Brigadier-General said in a statement. "They are to join the on-going internal security operations." He did not specify how many troops would be withdrawn, saying only that an "input of sizable men and materials (will) ... continue in the UN Mission," including a Nigeria-run military hospital.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE96T1EJ20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE96T1EJ20130730)

**DR Congo**

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

A statement by 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. After then, "they will be considered an imminent threat of physical violence to civilians and MONUSCO will take all necessary measures to disarm them, including by the use of force in accordance with its mandate and rules of engagement." The UN-proposed security zone includes Goma and its environs.

**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)

**Guinea**

**Country gains headway in legislative election preparations**

The National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) has completed the operations to revise the electoral lists, despite the disruptions that were witnessed during the registration period in Conakry and in the region of Forestiere, where deadly violence erupted in July, an official reported. The electoral commission pushed ahead with the operations in line with the election timetable, which provides that the revision end on 27 July. In a new electoral calendar, CENI has proposed the legislative elections be held on 24 September, after the postponement of the vote, which was initially set for 30 June by the President.

**Xinhua -** [**http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/30/c\_132587996.htm**](http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/30/c_132587996.htm)

**Mali**

**Former prime minister has wide lead in vote early returns, potentially avoiding runoff**

A Malian official says early results show veteran politician and former Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has a wide lead in the country's presidential election, potentially allowing him to avoid a runoff next month. Col. Moussa Sinko Coulibaly, minister of territorial administration, said Tuesday that with one-third of the vote counted, Keita, known by his initials IBK, was well ahead of the 27-candidate field, followed by former finance minister Soumaila Cisse. He said officials would be finished counting the vote by Wednesday at the latest.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/former-prime-minister-has-wide-lead-in-mali-vote-early-returns-potentially/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/former-prime-minister-has-wide-lead-in-mali-vote-early-returns-potentially/)

**Niger**

**Most brides are children -** **UNICEF mention**

A population and health survey conducted in 2012 by the Ministry of Public Health released this July, revealed that 75% of girls get married before the age of 18 in this country of 16 million. According to the study, young girls aged between 15 and 19 years are the most vulnerable. In 2011 UNICEF State of the World’s Children report ranked Niger first on its list of countries with a high prevalence of early marriages. A guidance counsellor at the Ministry of National Education, reported that parents who marry off their young daughters usually cite their religion as the reason.

**IPS -** [**http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/most-brides-in-niger-are-children/**](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/most-brides-in-niger-are-children/)

**Nigeria**

**Authorities arrest 42 militants**

Up to 42 suspected members of Boko Haram have been arrested in south-western Nigeria, a military chief said on Monday. The arrests, based on intelligence reports, were made during raids between July 12 and 23 in the country's southwest Lagos and Ogun states, said Maj. Gen. Obi Umahi, general officer commanding (GOC) of the Nigerian Army 81 Div. The suspects have admitted to being members of the sect, while some confessed to having taken part in deadly Boko Haram operations in some parts of the country, he added. The military chief said some of them were among those responsible for the killing of soldiers and civilians in north-eastern city of Maiduguri, Borno.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/800135.shtml**](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/800135.shtml)

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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