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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Improved food systems could feed 3 billion more people – study**

Targeted efforts to make food systems more efficient in key parts of the world could meet the basic calorie needs of 3 billion extra people and reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture without using additional land and water, researchers said on Thursday. In a study published in the journal Science, researchers from the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment looked at 17 key crops that produce 86 percent of the world's crop calories and account for most irrigation and fertiliser consumption, including rice, wheat and corn. Their main recommendations are to produce more food on existing farmland by increasing yields, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, use less nutrients and water to grow crops, feed fewer crops to animals as fodder, and cut food waste.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140717140746-7aybr/?source=jt**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140717140746-7aybr/?source=jt)

**Scores of AIDS experts killed on Malaysia jet**

Scores of leading AIDS research experts were among those killed when a Malaysian passenger jet crashed in Ukraine after being allegedly shot down. Among them was Joep Lange, who researched the condition for more than 30 years and was considered a giant in the field, admired for his tireless advocacy for access to affordable AIDS drugs for HIV positive patients living in poor countries. As many as 100 people heading to the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne were on the doomed flight, Fairfax Media reported, including Lange, a former president of the International AIDS Society which organises the event. WHO said its media spokesman Glenn Thomas was also among those on board Flight MH17.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/07/scores-aids-experts-killed-malaysia-jet-2014718105856196768.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/07/scores-aids-experts-killed-malaysia-jet-2014718105856196768.html)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Turkish police fire tear gas to disperse anti-Israel protesters**

Turkish riot police fired tear gas and water cannon on Friday to disperse protesters who pelted the Israeli consulate in Istanbul with stones in protest at Israel's ground offensive on Gaza. Demonstrators waved Turkish and Palestinian flags, chanted slogans and smashed consulate windows with sticks and rocks.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140718060416-pqxqb**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140718060416-pqxqb)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine rebels to provide access to plane crash site-OSCE**

Pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine have agreed to provide assistance in an investigation into the downing of a Malaysian passenger airliner and will ensure safe access for international experts visiting the site, the OSCE said on Friday. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a security and rights body, said in a statement on its website that a "contact group" of senior representatives from Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE had held a video conference with the separatists, who pledged to cooperate with Ukrainian authorities in the investigation.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140718053242-gckhy/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140718053242-gckhy/?source=search)

**Ukraine PM says those behind Jet downing should face Hague Tribunal**

Ukraine's prime minister said Friday that pro-Russian separatist rebels that Kiev believes shot down a Malaysian airliner with 298 people on board should face an international tribunal The Hague. "Yesterday's terrible tragedy has altered our lives. The Russians went too far," Interfax-Ukraine quoted Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk as saying. "This is an international crime for which they should face an international tribunal in The Hague." For this part, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for an urgent settlement of the Ukraine crisis as he expressed condolences to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte over the Malaysian jet crash.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139452-ukraine-pm-says-those-behind-jet-downing-should-face-hague-tribunal**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139452-ukraine-pm-says-those-behind-jet-downing-should-face-hague-tribunal)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Typhoon gathers fury as it approaches southern China**

A typhoon heading towards southern China has strengthened into a super typhoon, the government said on Friday, ordering an all-out effort to prevent loss of life from a storm that has already killed at least 54 people in the Philippines. Typhoon Rammasun, which is packing winds of up to 180 kmph (112 mph), is expected to make landfall between the two Chinese provinces of Hainan and Guangdong on Friday afternoon, the National Meteorological Centre said on its website. The typhoon, which is shaping up as the strongest to hit China's island of Hainan in 40 years, will also bring heavy rains before moving southwest, state news agency Xinhua said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/18/us-china-typhoon-idUSKBN0FN0BM20140718**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/18/us-china-typhoon-idUSKBN0FN0BM20140718)

**Manila urges unity for South East Asian nations in China sea dispute**

The Philippines is pushing for a meeting among four Southeast Asian nations with conflicting claims to waters in the South China Sea so that they can hammer out a common stand in dealings with China, Manila's foreign minister said on Friday. Manila is waging a territorial dispute with China over the Spratlys and the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, an area believed to be rich in oil and natural gas deposits as well as fisheries resources. Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims in the sea, which is traversed each year by ship-borne trade worth about $5 trillion.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/18/us-philippines-southchinasea-idUSKBN0FN0SF20140718**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/18/us-philippines-southchinasea-idUSKBN0FN0SF20140718)

**Phillipines**

**Philippines recovering after typhoon**

Millions of Filipinos have endured a second day without power after typhoon Rammasun paralysed the capital Manila, and killed 38 people as it swept across the country.The storm's 160km/h winds destroyed about 7,000 houses and damaged another 19,000 said Alexander Parma, the chief of the national disaster agency. It was the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year. In Manila, a city of 12 million people, streets remained littered with fallen trees, branches and electrical posts as repairmen struggled to restore power services.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/07/philippines-recovering-after-deadly-typhoon-201471742910639735.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/07/philippines-recovering-after-deadly-typhoon-201471742910639735.html)

**Thailand**

**Thailand's ousted PM says she won't flee charges**

Thailand's former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said Friday she will fight charges related to her ousted government's rice subsidy program, vowing to return home after a planned trip overseas. The National Anti-Corruption Commission on Thursday recommended criminal charges against Yingluck for dereliction of duty for failing to halt the program, which accumulated losses of at least $4.4 billion and also temporarily cost Thailand its position as the world's leading rice exporter. At her first news conference since losing her job in May, Yingluck charged that the case against her was unfairly rushed.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thailands-ousted-pm-flee-charges-24613671**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thailands-ousted-pm-flee-charges-24613671)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Governor tried over Lamu massacres**

The governor of Kenya's coastal region of Lamu has appeared in court on allegations of links to a spate of massacres, with the prosecution requesting more time to complete investigations. Governor Issa Timamy of Lamu County was arrested in connection with last month's killings in the town of Mpeketoni and nearby villages, which were claimed by al-Shabaab, but blamed by the government on local political networks. The accusations have stoked already tense political rivalry between the ruling and opposition parties, with Timamy a member of the opposition United Democratic Forum (UDF) party.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/kenya-governor-tried-over-lamu-massacres-2014716125722561258.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/kenya-governor-tried-over-lamu-massacres-2014716125722561258.html)

**Malawi**

**Malawi says arson possible in ballot box fire**

Malawi's electoral commission has said arson cannot be ruled out in a warehouse fire that destroyed ballot boxes containing votes from a disputed election just days after a court ordered a recount. "Having analysed the preliminary reports, the commission is of the view that arson cannot be ruled out," Maxon Mbendera, the head of the Malawi Electoral Commission, said in a statement late Thursday. He said the commission had "formally approached the Inspector General of Police to institute appropriate investigations." Opposition parties claim that the fire was deliberately started to destroy evidence that could have overturned the parliamentary victory of a member of newly elected President Peter Mutharika's party.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139431-malawi-says-arson-possible-in-ballot-box-fire**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139431-malawi-says-arson-possible-in-ballot-box-fire)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Puerto Rico declares chikungunya epidemic**

Health officials in Puerto Rico on Thursday declared an epidemic of the mosquito-borne virus known as chikungunya, which was introduced into the Caribbean region late last year. Health Secretary Ana Rius said that more than 200 cases had been confirmed on the island as of June 25 and that the majority of them were reported in the capital of San Juan and nearby areas. The first case of chikungunya in the US territory was reported in late May. Also on Thursday, officials in Jamaica reported the island's first confirmed case. The chief medical officer, Dr. Kevin Harvey, said the virus was found in a person who had recently traveled to a country where there have been locally transmitted cases.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/puerto-rico-declares-chikungunya-epidemic-162114705.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/puerto-rico-declares-chikungunya-epidemic-162114705.html)

**Bolivia**

**Bolivia legalizes work by children as young as 10 – UNICEF mention**

Bolivia has lowered the age limit to work to 10 years – the lowest in the world. The measure is intended to help combat extreme poverty in the South American country, but it also violates international treaties. The text of the law says children between 10 and 14 years of age may work on their own, under supervision of their parents, "provided that the activity does not affect their education." Children age 12 to 14 may also work for people outside the family, but only for six hours a day instead of the previous eight-hour-day. A study conducted in 2008 by the ILO, the Bolivian government and UNICEF, found that 850,000 children between the ages of five and 17 were working. That was one in four.

**AFP & AP-** [**http://www.dw.de/bolivia-lowers-working-age-to-10-years/a-17793155**](http://www.dw.de/bolivia-lowers-working-age-to-10-years/a-17793155)

**Brazil**

**Brazil risks a recession as presidential campaign heats up**

Brazil's sluggish economy faces substantial risk of falling into a light recession in 2014, and may already have done so, providing opposition candidates with extra ammunition in the run-up to October's presidential election. Latin America's largest economy has slowed to average growth of just 2 percent a year since President Dilma Rousseff took office in early 2011 and, coincidentally, global demand for commodities ebbed. Attempts to boost activity by spurring consumption largely backfired as investment failed to catch up with demand, driving inflation higher and eventually forcing the central bank to drive up interest rates.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/brazil-risks-recession-presidential-campaign-heats-134015227.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/brazil-risks-recession-presidential-campaign-heats-134015227.html)

**Mexico**

**Rape, hunger and nameless kids at squalid children's home in Mexico**

Children in a squalid home for abandoned and troubled kids run by a controversial mother figure in western Mexico said hunger and regular beatings drove them to offer sex for food and get high by sniffing paint. Mexican police raided the refuge known as "La Gran Familia" (The Big Family) in the state of Michoacan on Tuesday, finding more than 450 kids in squalid rooms filled with trash and cockroaches. Many of the children, skinny and listless, described enduring years of abuse at the hands of home administrators including 79-year-old "Mama" Rosa Verduzco, who ran the home in the town of Zamora and has been detained on charges of deprivation of liberty and abuse.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140718014751-7d8tr/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140718014751-7d8tr/?source=search)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Hezbollah and al Qaeda clash on Syria-Lebanon frontier**

Hezbollah and the Syrian branch of al Qaeda have fought a deadly five-day battle in Syria near the border with Lebanon, a Hezbollah source and a fighter for the Nusra Front said on Thursday. A Nusra Front member said Hezbollah had lost many fighters over the past few days during the clashes in Syria's Qalamoun mountains. On Wednesday, Hezbollah tried to enter Syria from two Shi'ite Lebanese villages on the border when they were ambushed by Nusra Front fighters.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.businessinsider.com/r-hezbollah-and-al-qaeda-clash-on-syria-lebanon-frontier-2014-17**](http://www.businessinsider.com/r-hezbollah-and-al-qaeda-clash-on-syria-lebanon-frontier-2014-17)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**UN chief Ban urges Israel to spare civilians in Gaza**

UN SG Ban Ki-moon urged Israel to "do far more" to spare Palestinian civilians after it launched a ground offensive in Gaza on Thursday. "I regret that despite my repeated urgings, and those of many regional and world leaders together, an already dangerous conflict has now escalated even further," Ban told reporters. The UN chief described as "appalling" the death of four boys killed by Israeli strikes Wednesday on a Gaza City beach. "I urge Israel to do far more to stop civilian casualties. There can be no military solution to this conflict," he said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-18/264290-un-chief-ban-urges-israel-to-spare-civilians-in-gaza.ashx#ixzz37oZ8akRq**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-18/264290-un-chief-ban-urges-israel-to-spare-civilians-in-gaza.ashx#ixzz37oZ8akRq)

**Israel ready to widen Gaza ground offensive – PM**

Israel is prepared to "significantly widen" its ground offensive against militants in the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said. He said the military was targeting the Hamas tunnel network, which it could not do "only from the air". Thousands of troops moved into parts of Gaza on Thursday night, backed by tanks and artillery fire. Hamas, the Palestinian group that controls Gaza, has said Israel will "pay a high price" for the invasion.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28365425**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28365425)

**Gaza deaths soar to 265 on day 11 of Israel assault**

The death toll in Gaza hit 265 Friday as Israel pressed a ground offensive on the 11th day of an assault aimed at stamping out rocket fire, medics said. And an Israeli soldier was killed during the launch Thursday night of land operations on the edges of the Gaza Strip, raising the death toll on the Israeli side to two, the army said. The latest death was that of a man killed near Beit Hanun at the northern end of the Gaza Strip, emergency services spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said, raising Friday's toll to 24 dead.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-18/264291-six-palestinians-killed-in-israeli-gaza-attacks-medics.ashx#ixzz37oV5AdOD**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-18/264291-six-palestinians-killed-in-israeli-gaza-attacks-medics.ashx#ixzz37oV5AdOD)

**Abbas says Israel 'Must Stop' Gaza ground operation**

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas called on Israel to stop its ground operation in the Gaza Strip, saying it would cause more bloodshed and complicate efforts to end the conflict, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported Friday. Abbas' remarks came hours after Israel launched a ground operation aimed at hitting the Palestinian militant Hamas group, and as the death toll in Gaza hit 248 early on Friday. "Isarel must stop its ground operation in the Gaza Strip," MENA quoted Abbas as saying as he addressed a group of Egyptian intellectuals and journalists in Cairo.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139402-abbas-says-israel-must-stop-gaza-ground-operation**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139402-abbas-says-israel-must-stop-gaza-ground-operation)

**Sisi, Abbas mull donors meeting to rebuild Gaza**

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday mulled holding a donors conference to rebuild Gaza, the Egyptian presidency said. Sisi and Abbas, who discussed ways to end the Israeli offensive on the Palestinian enclave, also agreed that Israeli crossings to the besieged Gaza be opened to facilitate movement of people and goods. It was not clear whether they were also referring to Egypt's Rafah border crossing with Gaza, the only passage that bypasses Israel. The two leaders met amid intensifying global efforts to end the deadly conflict as Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist movement that is the main power in Gaza, resumed their strikes, after a brief halt of hostilities Thursday on humanitarian grounds.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139284-sisi-abbas-mull-donors-meeting-to-rebuild-gaza**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139284-sisi-abbas-mull-donors-meeting-to-rebuild-gaza)

**Iraq**

**UN accuses Islamic State of executions, rape, child abuse**

The UN accused IS fighters in Iraq of executing religious and other leaders as well as teachers and health workers, forcibly recruiting children and raping women among acts that amounted to war crimes. A UN report focused on a range of violations committed against civilians, particularly by the Islamic State, though it also said Iraqi forces and allied fighters had not taken precautions to protect civilians from violence.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140718125902-yhhcq/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140718125902-yhhcq/)

**Libya**

**Warring militia at Tripoli airport agree truce**

Powerful militia battling for control of the Libyan capital's airport have agreed on a ceasefire, Tripoli's mayor said. The truce was confirmed by both warring sides, and would see control of the airport handed over to neutral forces. The installation has been closed since fighting erupted on Sunday when Islamist gunmen from Misrata launched an attack on the airport, which has for the past three years been held by liberal, anti-Islamist fighters from Zintan, southwest of the capital. Mokhtar Lakhdar, a commander for the Zintan forces, confirmed to AFP that a truce had been agreed under the authority of the local government council.

**AFP -** [**http://www.afp.com/en/news/warring-militia-tripoli-airport-agree-truce**](http://www.afp.com/en/news/warring-militia-tripoli-airport-agree-truce)

**Libya seeks UN help, warns of collapse**

Libya on Thursday asked the UN for help to build up its security forces, with the foreign minister warning that his country could turn into a "failed state". Libyan Foreign Minister Mohamed Abdelaziz asked the UN Security Council to dispatch experts to train the country's defense and police forces to ensure they can protect oil fields, airports and other vital sites. "We are not asking for military intervention," said Abdelaziz. "We are asking for a team from the UN specialized in the field of security."

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-17/264217-libya-seeks-un-help-warns-of-collapse.ashx#ixzz37oaBy7Pm**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-17/264217-libya-seeks-un-help-warns-of-collapse.ashx#ixzz37oaBy7Pm)

**Syria**

**IS Jihadists kill 90 in Syria Gas field takeover**

Jihadists killed at least 90 Syrian regime fighters, civilian security guards and employees when they seized a gas field in Homs province, a monitoring group said on Friday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights described Thursday's takeover of the Shaar field as "the biggest" anti-regime operation by the Islamic State (IS) since it emerged in the Syrian conflict last year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139419-is-jihadists-kill-90-in-syria-gas-field-takeover**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139419-is-jihadists-kill-90-in-syria-gas-field-takeover)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia putting squeeze on extremism after attacks**

Tunisia's prime minister has announced a crackdown on networks recruiting people to fight jihad abroad and on imams who incite violence, after 14 soldiers were killed in one of this country's deadliest attacks in recent years. An extremist group believed linked to al-Qaida's North Africa arm claimed responsibility for the attacks on two army posts on Mount Chaambi on Wednesday night during a Ramadan feast. Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa said authorities will strengthen border controls and measures against networks that have recruited large numbers of Tunisians to fight in Syria and Iraq.

**AP-** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tunisia-putting-squeeze-extremism-attacks-24613519**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tunisia-putting-squeeze-extremism-attacks-24613519)

**Yemen**

**Two Yemeni soldiers, 'Qaida' gunman killed in clash**

Two Yemeni soldiers and a suspected al-Qaida gunman have been killed in a clash following an ambush in the southern province of Shabwa, security and tribal sources said on Friday. The gunmen ambushed an army vehicle late Thursday on the main road in Al-Aram, a security official said, adding that the soldiers fired back at the assailants. He said two soldiers were killed in the confrontation and another was wounded. A tribal source, meanwhile, said that one attacker was shot dead in the clash and four were wounded.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139440-two-yemeni-soldiers-qaida-gunman-killed-in-clash**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139440-two-yemeni-soldiers-qaida-gunman-killed-in-clash)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghanistan begins massive poll audit**

Afghanistan Thursday began a massive audit of 8.1 million ballots cast in the runoff round of its controversial presidential vote, hours after a brazen Taliban raid on Kabul’s airport. The audit is aimed at reversing a destabilizing political crisis that has threatened to widen the country’s ethnic fissures as foreign troops prepare to withdraw after more than a decade of war. Some 23,000 ballot boxes are being transported by the Afghan army and NATO forces to the capital, where they will be examined at 100 verification stations.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/World/2014/Jul-18/264260-afghanistan-begins-massive-poll-audit.ashx#ixzz37oaw1DnG**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/World/2014/Jul-18/264260-afghanistan-begins-massive-poll-audit.ashx#ixzz37oaw1DnG)

**Taliban claim attack on Kabul's airport**

Taliban fighters have attacked Kabul's international airport, setting off explosions and trading gunfire with Afghan soldiers, as a major alert was raised in the capital. A rapid response force was sent to the airport by the Afghan military after an explosion and bursts of gunfire were heard on Thursday morning.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/afghanistan-kabul-airport-under-attack-20147171253763942.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/afghanistan-kabul-airport-under-attack-20147171253763942.html)

**India**

**India school boycotted after 'rape'**

Indian parents have begun a boycott of a Bangalore school after claims emerged that a six-year-old student had been raped by two staff members. The parents, who staged a protest on Thursday, have asked the school to step up security for students. The alleged assault happened on 2 July but her parents discovered it only a few days ago after she complained of stomach ache and was taken to hospital. Police have registered a case, but they are yet to make any arrests.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28361426**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28361426)

**Pakistan**

**Militants kill eight Pakistani paramilitary members**

Militants killed eight members of a government paramilitary force in a midnight attack on a security checkpoint in Pakistan's restive northwest, security officials said Friday. The militants bombarded the checkpoint with rocket-propelled grenades, two senior military officials said, before overrunning and ransacking it. Local residents said the gunfire began around midnight and continued for at least two hours. The attack, for which no militant group has so far claimed responsibility, comes amid a military offensive to push the Taliban out of North Waziristan, a remote northwestern region near the border with Afghanistan.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140718050708-w1wsk/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140718050708-w1wsk/?source=search)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**WHO can't fully deal with Ebola outbreak, health official warns**

International health officials warned Thursday that recent budget cuts have impeded the ability of the WHO to respond to the Ebola outbreak that has killed at least 603 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The situation in West Africa should be a wake-up call to recognize that this weakening of this institution on which we all depend is not in anybody's interest," Scott Dowell, director of disease detection and emergency response at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a briefing in Washington. "In my view, there's no way that WHO can respond in a way that we need it to." Partly because of declining donations from member countries during the global recession, the UN-backed WHO has suffered a 12% drop in its program budget in the last two years. This year's budget is $3.98 billion.

**LA Times -** [**http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-who-ebola-20140718-story.html**](http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-who-ebola-20140718-story.html)

**Liberia**

**Ebola virus spreads in four more Liberian counties**

New cases of Ebola virus have been found in four additional counties in Liberia, raising the number of affected counties to seven out of a total of 15. The four counties are located in the west, center and east of Liberia, while the virus has affected mainly western parts of the county. Ebola has spread through several West African countries, including Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, since its latest outbreak in February. The death toll from the virus has surpassed 600 despite efforts by regional and international health experts to contain the epidemic. Guinea is the worst-hit country with more than 500 people losing their lives. Liberia has reported 105 deaths since the outbreak there in May, while 142 have lost their lives in Sierra Leone.

**PRESSTV-** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/07/17/371733/ebola-virus-spreads-across-liberia/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/07/17/371733/ebola-virus-spreads-across-liberia/)

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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