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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Global disasters are on the rise**

A global atlas of deaths and economic losses caused by weather, climate and water extremes shows disasters are on the rise worldwide, setting back development by years if not decades, its publishers said. Between 1970 and 2012, 8,835 disasters were reported due to natural hazards including droughts, extreme temperatures, floods, tropical cyclones and related health epidemics, causing nearly two million deaths and $2.4 trillion of economic losses, according to the atlas. Issued on Friday by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) at Belgium's Catholic University of Louvain, it does not track losses from earthquakes or volcanoes.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140711144054-h9pbj/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140711144054-h9pbj/?source=jtOtherNews2)

**Donors giving more but needs are greater than ever**

Humanitarian funding reached a record US$22 billion in 2013, yet almost a third of needs remained unmet, according to data recently released by the UK-based think tank Global Humanitarian Assistance Programme’s Development Initiatives. Government donors, who accounted for around three-quarters of total aid in 2013, gave an estimated $16.4 billion, up by one quarter in 2012. Private donors, including individuals, trusts, foundations and corporations, increased their contributions by 35 percent, to around $5.6 billion. While this increase is good news, Coppard said it still is not good enough. “There’s no room for complacency because still over a third of [humanitarian] needs aren’t being met,” director of research and analysis at Development Initiatives said.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100339/donors-giving-more-but-needs-are-greater-than-ever**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100339/donors-giving-more-but-needs-are-greater-than-ever)

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Rights group reports alarming rise in abductions, torture**

A human rights investigation team sent into eastern Ukraine by Amnesty International found "graphic and compelling evidence of savage beatings and other torture," primarily at the hands of pro-Russia separatists, the rights group reported. In the report documenting the brutal experiences of a handful of victims since the unrest began last winter, Amnesty called on both sides in the conflict to "stop this abhorrent ongoing practice" designed to induce fear among the civilian population. Ukraine's Interior Ministry has reported nearly 500 cases of abduction since April, and the UN special human rights monitoring mission in the country has recorded 222 cases in the last three months, Krivosheev said.

**LAT -** [**http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-ukraine-amnesty-abductions-torture-20140711-story.html**](http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-ukraine-amnesty-abductions-torture-20140711-story.html)

**Eastern Ukrainians flee as army suffers losses**

Ukraine's president vowed vengeance in blood after 19 troops were killed in an insurgent rocket attack Friday, and residents of the rebel-held city of Donetsk began fleeing in large numbers for fear of a government siege. The barrage of rocket fire just before sunrise at a base near the Russian border was a devastating setback for government forces, who had seemingly gained the upper hand last weekend when they pushed the pro-Russian fighters out of their stronghold city of Slovyansk. In addition to those killed, 93 soldiers were wounded, the Defense Ministry said.

**AP -** [**http://www.wfsb.com/story/25993738/eastern-ukrainians-flee-as-army-suffers-losses**](http://www.wfsb.com/story/25993738/eastern-ukrainians-flee-as-army-suffers-losses)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28267929**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28267929)

**Ukraine forces end rebel airport blockade**

Ukraine said on Monday its forces had ended a rebel blockade of a strategic airport in the east as it traded charges and threats with Russia over violations of their joint border during a weekend of fierce military combat. Ukraine's military said its warplanes had inflicted heavy losses on the pro-Russian separatists during air strikes on their positions, including an armoured convoy which Kiev said had crossed the border from Russia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714085758-u852p/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714085758-u852p/?source=jtTheWire)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Government’s pledge to send back Myanmar refugees sparks concern**

Thailand's military government said on Monday it would send home 100,000 refugees who have been living in camps for two decades and more along the border with Myanmar, a move rights groups say would create chaos at a tense time for both nations. Thailand's military overthrew the remnants of an elected government in May after months of sometimes violent street protests. Its National Council for Peace and Order has rolled out a raft of tough measures it says are needed to restore order and has promised a return to democracy next year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714064518-wxbzp**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714064518-wxbzp)

**Myanmar**

**UN to help prepare for a warming climate**

UN agencies have signed an agreement with Myanmar's government to help the country prepare for climate change impacts, including droughts, cyclones and flash floods. UNEP and UN-Habitat will support Myanmar to integrate climate change considerations into policies, and to develop a national strategy to prepare for a warming climate. "The impacts of climate change are here and now in the present, and are likely to become more severe in the future," said Yoshinobu Fukasawa, UN-Habitat’s regional director for Asia-Pacific. "These impacts threaten both the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals Myanmar has made in the last few years and also the rapid economic growth the country is currently experiencing."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140711140231-1lubj/?source=jtOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140711140231-1lubj/?source=jtOtherNews3)

**Philippines**

**Typhoon Rammasun is forecast to strike the Philippines at about 22:00 GMT on 14 July**

Typhoon Rammasun is forecast to strike the Philippines at about 22:00 GMT on 14 July. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center suggest that the point of landfall will be near 13.1 N, 125.6 E. Rammasun is expected to bring 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 148 km/h (92 mph). Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714090754-kk7uu/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714090754-kk7uu/?source=search)

**Magnitude 6.4 earthquake strikes off southern Philippines – USGS**

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck off the coast of the southern Philippines on Monday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The epicentre was 146 km off the town of General Santos, the USGS said. The USGS initially said the quake was magnitude 6.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714080854-v5qrd/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714080854-v5qrd/?source=search)

ESA

**Burundi**

**Burundi policeman suspected of planning to kill opposition leader**

A plain clothes policeman was arrested in Burundi on Saturday after what appeared to be an attempt to assassinate a prominent opposition leader, officials said. The man was held after being spotted acting suspiciously around a bar where Charles Nditije, a leader of an opposition faction of the Uprona party, was meeting with aides. He said the man had admitted to "being on a mission to assassinate me, without saying who had sent him.”

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140712/burundi-policeman-suspected-planning-kill-opposition-leader**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140712/burundi-policeman-suspected-planning-kill-opposition-leader)

**South Sudan**

**Thousands of children’s lives at risk as deadly Cholera outbreak spreads**

Cholera is likely to put thousands more lives at risk just as South Sudan is facing one of the worst humanitarian crises on the continent. The latest cholera outbreak in Torit County is spreading rapidly and illustrates how the highly infectious disease is spreading throughout the country. This is only the latest outbreak of a disease that has already contaminated over 2,600 people and killed more than 60 since the first cases were reported in Juba on 15 May.

**Save the Children -** [**http://www.savethechildren.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=8rKLIXMGIpI4E&b=8943305&ct=14066953&notoc=1**](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=8rKLIXMGIpI4E&b=8943305&ct=14066953&notoc=1)

**NY Times-** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/12/world/africa/south-sudan-refugee-crisis-worsens.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/12/world/africa/south-sudan-refugee-crisis-worsens.html?_r=0)

**South Sudanese rebel leader in Djibouti on diplomatic tour**

South Sudanese rebel leader, Riek Machar, is in Djibouti on his fourth leg in the ongoing diplomatic tour in the region to explain the position of his group and to galvanize support to the peace process which is mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The former vice-president and head of the armed opposition faction of the South Sudan’s ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM-In-Opposition), is expected to meet president Ismail Omar Guelleh, of Djibouti. Rebel leader’s spokesman, James Gatdet Dak, said the opposition faction’s delegation arrived in Djibouti on Saturday.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51662**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51662)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Mexican authorities rescues 8 child migrants held by kidnappers**

Mexican authorities said Friday they had rescued eight Salvadoran migrant youths who had been kidnapped by an equally youthful gang in northern Mexico. Prosecutors also said a previously reported operation had rescued a total of 205 kidnapped migrants being held in brutal conditions in two homes in the city of Tampico during which they were forced to watch executions. On Thursday, officials had put the number at 158. Mexico's top anti-kidnapping prosecutor, Renato Sales, said police rescued 19 kidnapped Salvadoran immigrants at a house in the northern border state of Tamaulipas. All were lying on the floor with their hands and feet bound, including eight under-age migrants. Sales did not give the exact ages of the minor victims or suspects, but said youths were increasingly being detected in kidnapping gangs.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-rescues-child-migrants-held-kidnappers-24529236**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-rescues-child-migrants-held-kidnappers-24529236)

**Caribbean looks to new insurance to cushion blow of natural disasters**

Natural disaster-prone Caribbean countries can soften the economic impact of earthquakes and hurricanes with new disaster insurance coverage in the form of a catastrophe bond, according to the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). The $30 million catastrophe bond or “cat bond” is the first ever issued by the World Bank offering earthquake and hurricane insurance coverage over the next three years to the group of 16 Caribbean countries that make up the CCRIF. The CCRIF is a risk pooling scheme, operated and owned by Caribbean countries, in which island nations pool their premiums in a disaster fund.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140711193444-lzmw4/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140711193444-lzmw4/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**20 Haitian migrants found on isle near Puerto Rico**

Authorities in Puerto Rico say they have found 20 Haitian migrants on an island just west of the US territory.

Puerto Rico police said Saturday that the group was located after someone noticed a bonfire burning overnight on Desecheo Island. Officials said there was a 12-year-old child in the group and everyone was in good health. Authorities had said on Friday that they found several other Haitian migrants in the area. Smugglers are increasingly transporting Haitian migrants to Puerto Rico, with many departing from the Dominican Republic.

**AP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/20-haitian-migrants-found-on-isle-near-puerto-rico-557630**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/20-haitian-migrants-found-on-isle-near-puerto-rico-557630)

**Haiti**

**UN has 'moral responsibility' to tackle Haiti cholera: Ban**

The UN has a "moral responsibility" to help impoverished Haiti end a devastating cholera outbreak some blame on peacekeepers, SG Ban Ki-moon says. Ban spoke to The Miami Herald ahead of a visit to the Caribbean nation due to begin Monday during which he is set to visit families affected by cholera. The United Nations has so far denied any responsibility over the outbreak that has killed more than 8,000 people and infected more than 700,000. There had been no cholera in Haiti for at least 150 years.

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24452677/un-has-moral-responsibility-to-tackle-haiti-cholera-ban/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24452677/un-has-moral-responsibility-to-tackle-haiti-cholera-ban/)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Link-up between Yemen and Syria Islamists of 'extreme concern': US**

US Attorney General Eric Holder said on Sunday that intelligence suggesting extremist bombmakers from Yemen have teamed up in Syria is "more frightening than anything" he had seen before. In an interview with ABC News, Holder called the alleged cooperation between expert bomb-makers in Yemen and jihadists fighting in Syria's civil war a "deadly combination." ABC News, citing unidentified sources, said US intelligence suspects Yemeni bombmakers in Syria have designed an explosive device small enough to fit in a laptop computer.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/13/-Extreme-concern-over-Yemen-and-Syria-Islamists-link-up-U-S-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/13/-Extreme-concern-over-Yemen-and-Syria-Islamists-link-up-U-S-.html)

**Syrian rebel commander assassinated in Jordan**

A Syrian rebel commander has been shot dead in the Jordanian capital in the first such incident on the kingdom's territory since the start of the conflict in Syria in 2011, a police source said on Saturday.Maher Rahal, 27, who headed the Liwa al-Mujahideen Brigade, one of dozens of rebel formations battling President Bashar al-Assad's forces in southern Syria, was shot five times in a residential area of the capital late on Friday. He had entered Jordan only last week on a family visit. The police source said there was no evidence that his death was politically motivated, while relatives of Rahal linked the killing to an old tribal blood feud in his village of Inkhil, in southern Syria.

**Reuters** - **http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/12/us-syria-crisis-jordan-assassination-idUSKBN0FH0SP20140712**

**Six dead as Hezbollah battles Syria rebels on Lebanon border**

Clashes between Syrian rebels and Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah on the Lebanese border have claimed at least six lives, sources said Sunday. Three Hezbollah fighters and three Syrian rebels were killed, a Hezbollah source and a Lebanese security official told AFP. The fighting erupted on Saturday in an undemarcated area of the frontier between Qalamun in Syria and Arsal in Lebanon, the Lebanese official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/14/Six-dead-as-Hezbollah-battles-Syria-rebels-on-Lebanon-border.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/07/14/Six-dead-as-Hezbollah-battles-Syria-rebels-on-Lebanon-border.html)

**Israeli forces shell Lebanon after cross-border rocket attack**

Israeli forces shelled southern Lebanon on Monday in response to a cross-border rocket attack, both sides said. A spokeswoman for Israel's army said it "immediately responded with artillery fire towards the source of the fire" from Lebanon, where security sources confirmed the Israeli shelling.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140713221603-fxqrg/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140713221603-fxqrg/?source=search)

**Egypt urges international action after Gaza mediation stalls**

The Egyptian government has been contacting Palestinian and Israeli contacts to “stop violence and military operations,” the Egyptian presidency announced on Saturday, according to AFP. The statement from the presidency came following President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi’s meeting with Tony Blair and said that efforts to bring the sides to negotiations had been met with “stubbornness and intransigence.” Egypt’s foreign ministry is urging the international community to take action to end the escalating conflict between Hamas and Israel in the Gaza strip, despite the Israeli Prime Minister vowing to continue with “Operation Protective Edge”.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/07/12/egypt-urges-international-action-gaza-mediation-stalls/**](http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/07/12/egypt-urges-international-action-gaza-mediation-stalls/)

**Egypt opens Rafah border crossing, Amnesty calls for investigation into violations**

Egypt exceptionally opened the Rafah border crossing, which connects the country to the Gaza Strip. Amnesty International called on the “UN to immediately impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel, Hamas and Palestinian armed groups,” in a statement on Friday. It added that pending the embargo, “all states must immediately suspend all transfers of military equipment, assistance and munitions to the parties”. Philip Luther, Director of MENA Programme at Amnesty International, said: “As the violence intensifies there is an urgent need for the UN to mandate an international independent fact-finding mission to Gaza and Israel to investigate violations of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.”

**Daily News Egypt -** [**http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/07/12/egypt-opens-rafah-border-crossing-amnesty-calls-investigation-violations/**](http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/07/12/egypt-opens-rafah-border-crossing-amnesty-calls-investigation-violations/)

**Saudi pledges $53.3 mn in aid for Gaza**

Saudi Arabia has pledged 200 million riyals ($53.3 million) in humanitarian aid for the victims of the Israeli offensive against Gaza which has killed more than 170 people. The funds will pay for medicine and medical equipment to treat "victims of the brutal Israeli aggression and bombing of the Gaza Strip," Finance Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf said late Sunday. The aid will be channeled through the Palestinian Red Crescent, Assaf said in a statement carried by the SPA state news agency.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138776-saudi-pledges-53-3-mn-in-aid-for-gaza**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138776-saudi-pledges-53-3-mn-in-aid-for-gaza)

**Algeria**

**Roadside bomb kills seven members of Algeria's security forces**

A roadside bomb killed seven members of Algeria's security forces as they were patrolling in the west of the country, the second major attack on the military in three months. Militants attacked a military convoy in Sidi Bel Abbes province in western Algeria late on Saturday, the defence ministry said in a statement. Three soldiers and four municipal guards were killed in the blast. The statement said "terrorists" carried out the attack, a term used by the authorities to refer to Islamist militants.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140713172917-gv9uy/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140713172917-gv9uy/?source=search)

**8 killed in mortar attack in Egypt's Sinai**

Militants in Egypt's northern Sinai fired mortar rounds late Sunday at a military post in the provincial capital of el-Arish, killing a soldier as well as seven civilians, including two children, in a nearby residential complex, security and hospital officials said. A senior security official said the attack late Sunday hit the military post, killing one soldier. The military post is located near a compound of residential buildings in the al-Salam district. The main security headquarters and the local government offices are also located in the same area.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/killed-mortar-attack-egypts-sinai-24544833**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/killed-mortar-attack-egypts-sinai-24544833)

**Egypt jails 101 Morsi backers for 3 years**

An Egyptian court Sunday sentenced 101 supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi to three years in jail for acts of violence in the Nile Delta city of Damietta, state media reported. Egyptian courts have sparked international concern over a spate of mass trials of Morsi's supporters, with rights groups repeatedly accusing the authorities of using the judiciary as a tool of repression.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138741-egypt-jails-101-morsi-backers-for-3-years**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138741-egypt-jails-101-morsi-backers-for-3-years)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Gazans flee the north fearing a major Israeli crackdown, Gaza toll hits 172**

Palestinian Territories: Israel hit the Gaza Strip with air strikes and artillery fire early Monday on the seventh day of its offensive and as diplomatic efforts to halt the bloodshed intensified. World powers prepared to meet over the spiralling violence as the Palestinian death toll from the punishing Israeli air campaign hit 172 with another 1,230 people wounded, the emergency services said. Fearing for their lives, about 17,000 people have taken shelter in installations of UNRWA, the agency said in a statement. Despite increasing calls for a ceasefire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military was hitting Hamas "with growing force", warning there was no end in sight. "We do not know when this operation will end," he told ministers.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/gazans-flee-the-north/1261700.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/gazans-flee-the-north/1261700.html)

**Iran**

**Iran sends 8 Facebook activists to prison for opposing the government**

Iran’s official news agency is reporting eight Facebook activists have been handed jail sentences ranging from eight to 21 years for a total of 127 years in prison. The report by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) says the defendants are convicted of plotting against national security, spreading propaganda against the ruling system and insulting officials. It did not identify the defendants or the Facebook pages. The report said Sunday that the court issued its verdict against the eight young Facebook activists in April following several court appearances. Facebook is officially banned in Iran, as are other popular social media websites like Twitter and YouTube. Their mobile apps are also banned.

**The Star-** [**http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2014/07/13/iran\_sends\_8\_facebook\_activists\_to\_prison\_for\_opposing\_the\_government.html**](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2014/07/13/iran_sends_8_facebook_activists_to_prison_for_opposing_the_government.html)

**Iraq**

**Iraq parliament adjourns without progress on govt**

Iraq's fractious parliament met on Sunday and again failed to make any progress toward forming a new government, as militants gained ground north of Baghdad in a renewed drive. World powers and Iraq's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani have piled pressure on MPs to put aside their differences, with the country facing a major jihadist-led onslaught that has overrun chunks of five provinces. But acting parliament speaker Mahdi Hafez announced at Sunday's session that "no type of agreement was reached... between the various blocs", and the session was adjourned to Tuesday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138716-iraq-parliament-adjourns-without-progress-on-govt**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138716-iraq-parliament-adjourns-without-progress-on-govt)

**Iraq militants renew town assault after offer rejected**

Militants on Monday assaulted the final area of the Iraqi town of Dhuluiyah still outside their control, after tribesmen rejected an offer to let them enter uncontested, an official said. Jihadist-led militants launched a major offensive on June 9 that has overrun large areas north and west of Baghdad, and appear to be making a renewed push to gain ground after a period in which battle lines were relatively static. The militants began their attack on Dhuluiyah, just 80 km north of Baghdad, on Sunday and have overrun most of the town, local official Marwan Mitaab said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138795-iraq-militants-renew-town-assault-after-offer-rejected**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138795-iraq-militants-renew-town-assault-after-offer-rejected)

**Libya**

**UN temporarily moves some international staff out of Libya**

The UN said on Sunday it had temporarily relocated some of its international staff out of Libya after heavy fighting broke out between rival militias vying for control of Libya's main airport. The fighting killed at least seven people and forced a halt to all flights in the worst violence in the capital in six months. "We can confirm a temporary relocation for security reasons," UN spokesman Farhan Haq said, without giving figures. If the security situation continued to deteriorate, UN sources did not rule out a temporary relocation of all remaining international staff in Libya. One UN source said UN staff had been "significantly reduced." The UN Support Mission in Libya, or UNSMIL, has some 200 national and international staff, according to its website.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714002038-rpkzm/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714002038-rpkzm/?source=search)

**Syria**

**UNSC to vote Monday on aid access resolution**

The UNSC will vote Monday on a resolution to allow aid access at four border crossings into rebel-held areas of Syria without government consent, said Western diplomats, who were hopeful Russia and China will support the move. Australian UN Ambassador Gary Quinlan, who drafted the resolution with Luxembourg and Jordan, posted on Twitter that the final version of the text had been circulated to all 15-council members on Friday. Diplomats said the vote would be held on Monday, likely at 12 p.m. (1600 GMT).

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0FH00M20140712**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0FH00M20140712)

**UN asks Europe to take Syrian refugees as region saturated**

Europe must open its doors to more Syrian refugees, having welcomed only a "miniscule" number while Syria's neighbours have reached "saturation point", UNHCR said. Syrian refugees, whose numbers are set to pass 3 million in the next few weeks, are almost all in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, with smaller numbers in Iraq and Egypt. But that is changing, said UNHCR chief spokeswoman Melissa Fleming. "The trend is obvious now, they're moving beyond the neighbouring countries. The neighbouring countries have reached saturation point. And many Syrians are now seeking refuge in Europe and we're asking Europe to do more."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140711131137-47df2/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140711131137-47df2/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**Sudan**

**Sudan’s SPLM-N and ex-Janjaweed leader sign memo of understanding**

The tribal entities of Hamar and Ma'alia signed in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum on Thursday an agreement to stop the bloody fighting which has been continuing for two years between the two tribes in East Darfur and West Kordofan states. The two sides agreed to support ongoing arrangements to hold the reconciliation conference on July 18.

**Yemen**

**Shiite rebels say ready to evacuate key Yemeni city of Amran**

Shiite rebels are to withdraw from a key city they seized in an advance towards Yemen’s capital and an army unit will now move into Amran, a spokesman said Saturday. Amran, 50 km north of Sanaa, has seen fierce fighting since February as Houthi rebels known as Ansarullah advanced from their mountain strongholds towards the capital. “Our men will withdraw from Amran as soon as an army unit moves in,” rebel spokesman Mohammed Abdessalam said, adding that the decision to pull back came in a deal struck with the defense ministry.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/07/12/Shiite-rebels-say-ready-to-evacuate-key-Yemeni-city-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/07/12/Shiite-rebels-say-ready-to-evacuate-key-Yemeni-city-.html)

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/un-security-council-urges-shiite-rebels-to-quit-yemeni-city-557259**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/un-security-council-urges-shiite-rebels-to-quit-yemeni-city-557259)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan election audit to take three weeks**

The audit of Afghanistan's disputed presidential poll will take three weeks, the head of the country's election commission said on Sunday after the two rival candidates agreed to the vote-checking. "In order for this audit to be conducted on time, the Independent Election Commission is planning to form 100 teams that will review 1,000 ballot boxes every day. The audit will end in three weeks," commission chairman Yusuf Nuristani told a press conference in Kabul. The estimate comes after presidential rivals Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani agreed to an audit of all eight million votes cast in the disputed run-off election, following two days of intense shuttle diplomacy by US Secretary of State John Kerry.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138745-afghan-election-audit-to-take-three-weeks**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138745-afghan-election-audit-to-take-three-weeks)

**India**

**Village council accused of ordering rape**

A 14-year-old girl was dragged into a forest and raped on the orders of a village council in remote eastern India in retaliation for a sex assault blamed on her brother, her family and police said. A local police official, said two men have been arrested in the rape case. They include the village headman and the main suspect, identified as the husband of the woman who was allegedly molested by the victim's brother. The girl's mother told CNN-IBN news channel that she pleaded with the council and other villagers when they ordered the rape but no one listened. The attack took place after midnight on Sunday in a small village in Jharkhand state's Bokaro district.

**AP -** [**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/07/11/india-revenge-rape/12544347/?utm\_source=feedblitz&utm\_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm\_campaign=usatoday-newstopstories**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/07/11/india-revenge-rape/12544347/?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=usatoday-newstopstories)

**Pakistan**

**290,000 children inaccessible to polio teams – UNICEF mention**

A UNICEF report disclosed that inaccessibility to some 290,000 children to immunise them against poliovirus has turned to be a major challenge due to insecurity in Gadap Town of Karachi, North and South Waziristan, FR Bannu and Khyber Agency in Fata, being major reservoirs of the virus all over the world. The country-wide missed-out children are being taken as a major threat to the recent programme of controlling poliovirus in Pakistan. “Almost all polio cases reported from North & South Waziristan agencies in 2014 did not receive any dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV),” the report says.

**Dawn -** [**http://www.dawn.com/news/1118298/029m-children-inaccessible-to-polio-teams**](http://www.dawn.com/news/1118298/029m-children-inaccessible-to-polio-teams)

**Pakistani forces kill 13 militants in northern tribal area**

Pakistani fighter jets on Saturday killed 13 militants and destroyed their seven hideouts in North Waziristan tribal region during the major offensive against the local and foreign militants, the military said. The security forces launched major offensive in the region on June 15 as the peace talks collapsed and the military spokesman said over 400 militants have been killed so far. Nearly 20 security personnel have also lost lives in bomb attacks and clashes.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article\_xinhua.aspx?id=229431**](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=229431)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**As Ebola stalks West Africa, medics fight mistrust, hostility**

Governments and health agencies trying to contain the world's deadliest ever Ebola epidemic in West Africa fear the contagion could be worse than reported because suspicious locals are chasing away health workers and shunning treatment. From Guinea, where the four-month-old outbreak claimed the first of more than 500 lives, to Sierra Leone, scores of patients are hiding away, believing hospitalisation is a "death sentence". In Guinea's southeastern Forest Region some terrified villagers are shutting off their communities to medical workers, even blocking roads and downing bridges.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140713152236-g4plj/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140713152236-g4plj/?source=search)

**CAR  
Civilian leaders threaten to boycott peace talks**

Key political and religious groups in strife torn CAR on Friday threatened to boycott peace talks in the neighbouring Republic of Congo, saying their county's future should be resolved at home. French diplomatic sources played down the threat, saying the talks planned in Brazzaville this month are aimed at bringing together "anti-balaka" militias and ex-Seleka rebels to negotiate a ceasefire which must be in place before any real political process can be launched. "The political and religious leaders find it inappropriate to go to Brazzaville to resolve Central Africa's problems," said a statement signed by 59 political parties and the three main religious chiefs.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140711163525-j442e/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140711163525-j442e/?source=jtOtherNews2)

**CAR's Seleka rebels reinstate leader**

The Central African Republic's former president has been reinstated as head of one of the rebel groups in the country, according to a spokesperson. Ahmat Mahamat Nedjad said on Sunday that Michel Djotodia was re-elected as head of the Seleka rebel group, a movement that took over the CAR in the coup in March 2014. In addition to appointing a political wing of more than 30 members, Nedjad announced a change to the name of the group. The Seleka would now be known as The Popular Front for the Rebirth of Central African Republic, he said. Nedjad said the decision was made during a meeting in the northern CAR town of Birao.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/car-seleka-rebels-reinstate-leader-201471315134261923.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/car-seleka-rebels-reinstate-leader-201471315134261923.html)

**Cote d’Ivoire**

**Rainy season death toll reaches 39**

Flooding and landslides during the Cote d’Ivoire’s rainy season have killed 39 people over the last month, officials said. The majority died on 19 June, when 23 people were killed in overnight landslides in the economic hub Abidjan, but several weeks of torrential rain have continued to cause flooding across the country. "This toll also includes disasters that have happened in the interior of the country," said Fiacre Kili, who leads the national civil protection office. Last weekend, five people were killed when flooding hit villages near Grand Lahou, west of the capital, while hundreds of houses were destroyed in the town itself, many of them because of landslides.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ivory-coast-rainy-season-death-toll-reaches-39-214036323.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ivory-coast-rainy-season-death-toll-reaches-39-214036323.html)

**Mali**

**Clashes leaves more than 30 dead**

More than 30 people have been killed in clashes in the desert of northern Mali, the army and Tuareg rebels said, just days before the start of internationally-brokered peace talks. An army source told the Reuters news agency on Sunday that 37 people had been killed in clashes which began on Friday in the northern desert area between Gao and Kidal. The army blamed the violence on infighting between rebels. Peace talks between Mali government officials and Tuareg rebels are due to start in Algeria on Wednesday, the first meeting since clashes took place in the Tuareg stronghold of Kidal in May in which some 50 Malian soldiers were killed.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/mali-clashes-leaves-more-than-30-dead-201471485111714216.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/mali-clashes-leaves-more-than-30-dead-201471485111714216.html)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram leader claims blast in Lagos**

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has claimed responsibility for two explosions on June 25 at a fuel depot in Lagos in a video seen by Reuters on Sunday, which if true would be the militants' first recorded attack on the city. "A bomb went off in Lagos. I ordered (the bomber) who went and detonated it," Shekau said. The two blasts minutes apart last month in the main port of Apapa were almost certainly caused by bombs, three senior security sources and the manager of a major container company told Reuters. One was most likely the work of a female suicide bomber, they said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/13/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0FI0L520140713**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/13/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0FI0L520140713)

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