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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**The literacy injustice: 493 million women still can't read**

Educating girls is now at the core of much development thinking and programming, but illiteracy among women and older adolescent girls outside formal education is an increasingly critical issue that risks falling between the gaps. Of the 774 million adults (15 years and older) who still cannot read or write, two–thirds of them (493 million) are women. The significance of this within the wider development and women's rights agenda in developing countries cannot be ignored. Literacy is a fundamental right for women.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/jun/17/literacy-women-illiteracy-development**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/jun/17/literacy-women-illiteracy-development)

**UN adding to plight of refugees: AI**

Amnesty International accused the U.N. on 20 June adding to the global refugee crisis through “apathy, political alliances and point-scoring.” On World Refugee Day, Amnesty called on the UN’s Security Council to "act more decisively to protect civilians and prevent millions more people being driven away from their homes. The Security Council’s, and in some cases the UN Secretariat’s, ineffective or delayed responses to ongoing conflicts in Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Iraq have allowed violence to spiral and countless communities to be devastated before meaningful action, if any, is taken.”

**Turkish Weekly -** [**http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/168243/amnesty-un-adding-to-plight-of-refugees.html**](http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/168243/amnesty-un-adding-to-plight-of-refugees.html)

**An Italian Priest and a US Health Group Win the 2014 UN Population Prize**

Putting a new focus on maternal health and obstetric fistula in particular, which devastates the lives of women and girls in many poor countries, UNFPA has given its 2014 [UN Population Award](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47405) to an Italian doctor working in Mozambique and to an American maternal and child health organization with programs in scores of countries worldwide. Aldo Marchesini, an Italian doctor and a Roman Catholic priest, performing fistula surgery in Mozambique.

**PassBlue -** [**http://passblue.com/2014/06/18/an-italian-priest-and-a-us-health-group-win-the-2014-un-population-prize/**](http://passblue.com/2014/06/18/an-italian-priest-and-a-us-health-group-win-the-2014-un-population-prize/)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Armenia says soldier killed in border clash with Azerbaijan**

Azerbaijani forces killed an Armenian soldier in a fresh border shoot-out between the arch-foes locked in a smoldering conflict over the disputed Nagorny Karabakh region, the defense ministry in Yerevan said. There was an increase in violence towards the start of the year along the front line as the two foes accused each other of staging a series of tit-for-tat raids. At least 16 soldiers from both sides have been killed so far this year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/135846-armenia-says-soldier-killed-in-border-clash-with-azerbaijan**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/135846-armenia-says-soldier-killed-in-border-clash-with-azerbaijan)

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Kosovo Albanians torch cars, police fire rubber bullets in divided town**

Police in Kosovo fired tear gas and rubber bullets on Sunday at ethnic Albanian rioters burning police cars and lobbing rocks in the ethnically-divided town of Mitrovica, in protest over the blockage of the main bridge by ethnic Serbs. A Reuters reporter saw Polish special police units, part of a European Union mission, open fire with rubber bullets. They were backed by U.S. soldiers of NATO's 5,000-strong peace force in the Balkan country, which declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/kosovo-police-clash-protesters-divided-town-143832531.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/kosovo-police-clash-protesters-divided-town-143832531.html)

**Bulgaria**

**Authorities struggle with flood damage and begins to count cost**

The torrential rain and floods that swept Bulgaria this week have killed 12 people, wrecked part of the Black Sea city of Varna and badly hit agriculture and the important tourism sector, authorities said on Saturday. The government has yet to estimate the full scale of the damage caused when rivers burst their banks in eastern and central Bulgaria, forcing mass evacuations, but is considering seeking EU aid. On Saturday, over 1,000 rescue workers and volunteers were struggling to clear mud and rubble left by a flood surge through a suburb of Varna that killed 11, including two children.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/21/us-bulgaria-floods-idUSKBN0EW0KA20140621**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/21/us-bulgaria-floods-idUSKBN0EW0KA20140621)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine orders 1-week government cease-fire**

Ukraine's president ordered his forces to cease fire Friday and halt military operations for a week against pro-Russian separatists in the country's east — the first step in a peace plan he hopes will end the fighting that has killed hundreds. The Kremlin dismissed the plan, saying it sounded like an ultimatum and lacked any firm offer to open talks with insurgents. A senior Ukrainian separatist leader on Friday rejected the terms of the Ukranian President's peace plan, saying the pro-Russian rebels would not disarm until Kiev pulled back its forces. Petro Poroshenko, making his first trip to the east as Ukraine's president, said that the cease-fire will run until the morning of June 27 and that his troops reserve the right to fire back if separatists attack them or civilians.

**AP -** [**http://www.timesdaily.com/news/world/article\_d0a90647-ea7a-589c-8d1c-ec483f1d4704.html?mode=jqm**](http://www.timesdaily.com/news/world/article_d0a90647-ea7a-589c-8d1c-ec483f1d4704.html?mode=jqm)

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140620/ukraine-rebel-leader-says-no-disarmament-until-kiev-pulls-back-troops**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140620/ukraine-rebel-leader-says-no-disarmament-until-kiev-pulls-back-troops)

**US slaps sanctions on seven individuals over Ukraine**

The U.S. announced to impose sanctions on seven "separatists" for their role in threatening the territorial integrity of Ukraine. As a result of the action, any assets of the individuals designated that are within US jurisdiction must be frozen, said a statement issued by the Treasury Department, adding that transactions by US persons or within the US involving the individuals are generally prohibited. The individuals blacklisted are mostly separatist leaders or self-described officials in eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, according to the statement.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/140620/us-slaps-sanctions-seven-individuals-over-ukraine-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/140620/us-slaps-sanctions-seven-individuals-over-ukraine-0)

**US, France, Germany say Russia faces costs over Ukraine**

The leaders of the U.S., France and Germany agreed on Friday that Russia faces the risk of new sanctions from the West if it fails to defuse tensions on the Ukraine border. As Ukraine's new president sought to end an insurgency in the country's east, U.S. President Barack Obama spoke separately with French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The leaders spoke amid heightened concerns about Russian activity along Ukraine's borders.

**Worldnewsreport -** [**http://world.einnews.com/article/210427795/AtRD2f4EV5YaHILh**](http://world.einnews.com/article/210427795/AtRD2f4EV5YaHILh)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Sustainable energy hub for Asia launched**

The Asian Development Bank and two U.N. agencies launched a hub Wednesday to mobilize investments and innovation to bring clean energy to the Asia Pacific region, where more than 600 million people lack electricity and 1.8 billion use firewood and charcoal at home. Energy demand is soaring in the region on the back of economic and population growth, and the ADB said that by 2035 developing countries in the region will account for 56 percent of global energy use, up from 34 percent in 2010. They will need more than $200 billion in energy investments by 2030.

**AP -** [**http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/sustainable-energy-hub-asia-launched**](http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/sustainable-energy-hub-asia-launched)

**China**

**Police shoot dead 13 attackers in Xinjiang**

Police shot dead 13 attackers in China's restive Xinjiang region after they rammed a car into a police station and detonated explosives, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday, in the latest of a series of attacks to worry Beijing. Xinjiang is the traditional home of Muslim Uighurs who speak a Turkic language, and China has blamed previous attacks on Islamist separatists it says seek to establish an independent state there called East Turkestan.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0EW07H20140621**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0EW07H20140621)

**PNG**

**Calls grow for the resignation of Prime Minister as political turmoil escalates**

There are growing calls for the resignation of PNG's Prime Minister with both the opposition leader and sacked attorney-general Kerenga Kua calling for him to go. At a press conference in Port Moresby, Mr Kua said the prime minister's actions were pushing the country towards an autocratic dictatorship. He says the direction of the prime minister's leadership threatens PNG's democracy and the very survival of the nation.

**ABC -** [**http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2014-06-20/calls-grow-for-the-resignation-of-prime-minister-peter-oneill-as-political-turmoil-escalates-in-png/1330912**](http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2014-06-20/calls-grow-for-the-resignation-of-prime-minister-peter-oneill-as-political-turmoil-escalates-in-png/1330912)

**RNZI -** [**http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/2600449/png-prime-minister-stands-firm-amid-political-meltdown**](http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/2600449/png-prime-minister-stands-firm-amid-political-meltdown)

**Thailand**

**Police detain 8 anti-coup protesters**

Police in Thailand have arrested eight people for protesting the nation's military junta, including a man holding up a copy of George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" outside one of Bangkok's busiest malls.

Handfuls of anti-coup protesters have read copies of the book at silent readings in public because they say its indictment of totalitarianism is now relevant in Thailand after its elected government was ousted in a May 22 coup. A police officer said the arrests took place in Bangkok on Sunday in or around Siam Paragon, one of the country's most luxurious shopping malls.

**AP -** [**http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2014/jun/22/thai-police-detain-8-anti-coup-protesters/**](http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2014/jun/22/thai-police-detain-8-anti-coup-protesters/)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**Kiir draws “red line” for interim government**

In a very strongly-worded speech to the parliament in Juba on Thursday, South Sudanese president Salva Kiir said any interim government without him or the elected national assembly is "a red line.”

Kiir accused unnamed countries of intending to “dismantle” his county and the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement. Different sources say western countries including the USA were pushing for the designation of the former SPLM secretary general Pagan Amum as interim president to implement constitutional and political reforms.

**AP -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51399**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51399)

**Rainy Season Worsening Situation for Refugees**

South Sudan refugees have been crossing Ethiopia's border in large numbers since the start of the conflict in December. The International Organization for Migration is concerned about the rainy season and its impact on the refugees. About 1,500 South Sudan refugees come into Ethiopia everyday, fleeing the violent conflict that has continued for six months. An IOM spokesman, Alemayehu Seifeselassie says because of the start of the rainy season, transporting the refugees is becoming more challenging.

**Allafrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201406201053.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201406201053.html)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Chikungunya virus spreads from Caribbean to C. America**

The mosquito-born chikungunya virus is spreading into Central America, health authorities there say, after outbreaks in several Caribbean nations. "We are facing a new illness in the country, but we are working to fight it," said the El Salvador Health Minister, whose country has reported 1,200 cases so far. In Panama, two cases have been detected. It is not yet clear how the virus spread to El Salvador, and its appearance both there and Panama, two countries with no common border, has raised fears elsewhere in Central America, especially as the rainy season, most favorable for mosquitoes, is only beginning.

**AFP -** [**https://uk.news.yahoo.com/chikungunya-virus-spreads-caribbean-c-america-203203932.html#TF0vBgX**](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/chikungunya-virus-spreads-caribbean-c-america-203203932.html#TF0vBgX)

**Central America presses Biden on migrant rights as US vows aid**

Central American leaders pressed visiting US Vice-President Joe Biden to improve migrant rights, even as the US committed tens of millions of dollars in extra aid to the region in a bid to stem a surge of illegal immigration. The White House said the US would launch a $40 million program to improve security in Guatemala to reduce pressures forcing migration to US and a $25 million program to provide services to youth in El Salvador who are vulnerable to organized-crime pressure. Responding to what President Barack Obama has called a humanitarian crisis, the US Congress advanced legislation boosting funds by as much as $2.28 billion to handle a surge of foreign children entering the country illegally.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/20/us-usa-immigration-children-guatemala-idUSKBN0EV0C920140620**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/20/us-usa-immigration-children-guatemala-idUSKBN0EV0C920140620)

**Haiti**

**UN chief served with cholera complaint, lawyers say**

Lawyers for victims of a cholera epidemic in Haiti said they have served UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with a complaint in New York as part of a federal lawsuit seeking compensation for the outbreak, which they blame on UN peacekeepers. Ban was entering an event at The Asia Society in Manhattan when he was handed the court papers by a process server, according to a statement by lawyers representing the plaintiffs. A UN spokesman, however, said the UNSG was not served because his security did not allow him to accept the complaint.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/20/us-un-haiti-lawsuit-idUSKBN0EV23920140620**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/20/us-un-haiti-lawsuit-idUSKBN0EV23920140620)

**Paraguay**

**Floods leave thousands displaced**

Paraguay has been affected by heavy rains that have produced high tides in at least eight departments, and in Asuncion, due to the overflowing of the Parana and Paraguay rivers, among others. The floods have been slow-onset; therefore, it has been possible to evacuate populations on time. However, more than 30,000 families (about 160,000 people) have been affected, and many of them have been evacuated to the 91 shelters established, or are staying with relatives or friends. Difficulties in providing emergency assistance stem from access problems to the affected areas, the need to provide shelter, food and welfare to the population, and access to clean water.

**PAHO -** [**http://www.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1943%3Afloods-in-paraguay&catid=844%3Anews-south-america&Itemid=1057&lang=en**](http://www.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1943%3Afloods-in-paraguay&catid=844%3Anews-south-america&Itemid=1057&lang=en)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israel launches air raids on Syrian positions in Golan**

Israel carried out retaliatory air raids on Syrian army positions in the Golan Heights overnight after a teenager on the Israeli side was killed in an attack from Syria, the army said early Monday. "The IDF targeted nine Syrian army positions in response to the earlier attack that originated in Syria killing an Israeli teenager and injuring two other Israeli civilians," an army spokesman said. Sunday's attack marked the most serious escalation along the ceasefire line with Syria since the 1973 Middle East War, with Israel's defence minister warning Damascus would pay a "high price" for helping militants bent on harming Israel.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/israel-launches-air-raids-on-syrian-positions\_941807.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/israel-launches-air-raids-on-syrian-positions_941807.html)

**Egypt**

**Court Confirms Death Penalty for Muslim Brotherhood Defendants**

An Egyptian court confirmed death sentences on Saturday against the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and 182 supporters in a mass trial of the Islamists who ruled Egypt for a year but face a fierce crackdown under the new president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The Brotherhood leader, Mohamed Badie, and other defendants were charged in connection with violence that erupted in the southern town of Minya after the military ousted President Mohamed Morsi, a Brotherhood leader, last July. One police officer was killed in the violence.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/world/middleeast/egyptian-court-confirms-death-penalty-for-muslim-brotherhood-defendants.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/world/middleeast/egyptian-court-confirms-death-penalty-for-muslim-brotherhood-defendants.html?_r=0)

**Death sentence ruling a 'big step backwards': Amnesty**

Amnesty on Saturday strongly criticised a decision by an Egyptian court to confirm death sentences for more than 180 Islamists, accusing the judiciary of losing "any semblance of impartiality". The court in the central city of Minya had initially sentenced 683 people to death, but on Saturday it commuted death sentences of four defendants to life in prison, including two women, and acquitted 496 others, prosecutor Abdel Rahim Abdel Malik told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/egypt-death-sentence-ruling-big-step-backwards-amnesty-20140621**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/egypt-death-sentence-ruling-big-step-backwards-amnesty-20140621)

**Iraq**

**UN: Violence creates one million refugees**

One million people have fled their homes in Iraq - including 500,000 in Mosul following the violence around Iraq's second city in recent weeks, the UN said on Friday. The figure for refugees escaping the Mosul area following attacks led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) includes 250,000 children, Jens Laerke, spokesman for OCHA, said. A further 25,000 people have been displaced but remain within Mosul. There are 500,000 IDPs who have fled the conflict between militants and government forces in Iraq's western Anbar province, Laerke added. ISIL controls parts of Syria and Anbar and has seized a number of other towns in northern Iraq, including Mosul, since June 10.

**Anadolu -** [**http://www.aa.com.tr/en/news/347783--un-iraq-violence-creates-one-million-refugees**](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/news/347783--un-iraq-violence-creates-one-million-refugees)

**Israel**

**No decision on threat to expel UN envoy**

Israel's FM said Sunday a final decision has yet to be made on his threat to expel the UN's peace envoy for offering to help transfer Qatari funds to Gaza. Avigdor Lieberman was reported to have said by Channel Two television that he wants to declare Robert Serry persona non grata and expel him from Israel over the alleged offer. Lieberman had told AFP he would chair an emergency meeting Sunday during which "tough measures" would be imposed against Serry. But his ministry's spokesman Yigal Palmor said later that "no decision was taken at the meeting".     
**AFP -** [**http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/israel-says-no-decision-on-threat-to-expel-un-envoy.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68097&NewsCatID=359**](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/israel-says-no-decision-on-threat-to-expel-un-envoy.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68097&NewsCatID=359)

**Lebanon**

**Suicide bomber kills one on Lebanon road to Damascus**

A suicide bomber killed one person at a Lebanese checkpoint on the main highway from Beirut to Damascus on Friday, official media and a security source said. The attack came as members of the security forces raided two hotels in central Beirut and detained at least 15 people, according to an AFP photographer at the scene. The attack at Dahr al-Baydar east of Beirut killed one person and wounded 32 others, the official National News Agency said quoting the health ministry.

**AFP -** [**http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/suicide-bomber-kills-two-on-lebanon-road-to-damascus.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68060&NewsCatID=352**](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/suicide-bomber-kills-two-on-lebanon-road-to-damascus.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68060&NewsCatID=352)

**Syria**

**UN says 10.8 million need humanitarian aid**

The humanitarian situation in Syria is worsening and the number of people needing urgent help has reached 10.8 million almost half of Syria's population of 22 million, said UNSG Ban Ki-moon. Ban's monthly report to the UNSC said the current estimate of 3.5 million people living in areas that are difficult or impossible for humanitarian workers to reach is also likely to have increased to 4.7 million people. The UN chief painted a grim picture of a country gripped by severe levels of violence, including the intensified use of barrel bombs by government forces against civilian areas and suicide attacks, reported executions and other acts of terrorism by extremist groups. As a result, Ban said, the number of people in need has increased by 17% - from 9.3 million to 10.8 million.

**AP-** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/108-million-syrians-humanitarian-aid-24241737**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/108-million-syrians-humanitarian-aid-24241737)

**Al Jazeera & agencies -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/un-says-half-syrians-need-urgent-aid-20146210348640486.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/un-says-half-syrians-need-urgent-aid-20146210348640486.html)

**Yemen**

**Shiite rebels wound 17 police in ambush**

Some 17 Yemeni policemen were wounded in an ambush by Shiite Huthi rebels as fighting between government forces and the rebels neared the capital, officials said on 22 June. The Huthis -- also known as Ansarullah -- are suspected of trying to expand their sphere of influence as Yemen is reorganized into six regions by pushing out from their mountain northern strongholds to areas closer to Sanaa**.**

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136049-shiite-rebels-wound-17-yemen-police-in-ambush**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136049-shiite-rebels-wound-17-yemen-police-in-ambush)

**Yemen agrees on ceasefire with Houthi rebels**

Yemen's defence ministry and Shia rebels have agreed on a ceasefire, the Reuters news agency has reported quoting the country's official *26 September* newspaper. Since the breakdown last week of a previous truce reached at the beginning of the month, government forces and allied tribesmen have struggled to halt the rebels' advance on villages just 40 km northwest of the capital Sanaa.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/yemen-agrees-ceasefire-with-houthi-rebels-2014622222913186287.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/yemen-agrees-ceasefire-with-houthi-rebels-2014622222913186287.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Suicide attack targets top adviser**

A suicide attack in Afghanistan targeting a senior government official has killed one civilian and injured several others in Kabul, police say. But Mohammed Masoom Stanikzai, an adviser to the government body tasked with conducting peace talks with the Taliban, escaped unhurt. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban militants have recently launched a series of attacks. **BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-279534388**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-279534388)

**Security forces launched cleansing operations**

At least 21 gunmen were killed in several cleansing operations conducted by Afghan security forces during the last 24 hours in different parts of the country. According to Ministry of Interior press office reports to BNA, the operations launched in relevant areas of Badakhshan, Balkh, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Urozgan and Ghor provinces, as a result of which 21 armed oppositions were killed.

Also some military equipment and ammunitions have been seized at the end of the operations and a mine which recently, planted by armed rebels discovered and neutralized in Urozgan province.

**BNA -** [**http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/12860-afghan-security-forces-launched-cleansing-operations.html**](http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/12860-afghan-security-forces-launched-cleansing-operations.html)

**Leader backs UN election role**

Seeking to quell a political crisis surrounding the June 14 election to choose his successor, President Hamid Karzai reversed course on Friday and suggested that the United Nations get involved in helping Afghanistan settle disputes over the voting. In a meeting with Jan Kubis, the United Nations special envoy for the country, Mr. Karzai said the involvement of the international organization would be “a good step toward ending the problems, because any organization that can help Afghanistan in this issue is appreciated,” according to a statement from his office. Until now, Mr. Karzai had dismissed any suggestion that Afghanistan needed help running the election, and said that foreigners should stay out of the country’s politics.

**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/21/world/asia/afghan-president-in-reversal-backs-un-role-to-settle-election-dispute.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/21/world/asia/afghan-president-in-reversal-backs-un-role-to-settle-election-dispute.html?_r=0)

**Taliban attacks NATO air base in east Afghanistan**

Taliban militants have attacked a US-run NATO military airbase at one of Afghanistan’s main airports, local officials say. Eight rockets were fired into the NATO air-field at Jalalabad airport in the eastern province of Nangarhar on Saturday. The attack has caused no casualties or damage to the buildings inside the base. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had carried out eight heavy explosions inside the base.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/06/22/368068/nato-base-attacked-in-e-afghanistan/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/06/22/368068/nato-base-attacked-in-e-afghanistan/)

**Pakistan**

**Army N. Waziristan offensive: 350,000 displaced – UNICEF mention**

Some 350,000 people have been displaced since the start of an army offensive against militants in Pakistan's North Waziristan a week ago, officials say. There are fears the IDPs could spread polio, as many of the displaced children have not been vaccinated. Tens of thousands of children are among those who are currently on the move in the tribal region. Many of them have never been vaccinated for highly-infectious diseases - like polio - because of a Taliban-imposed ban. “For now, we haven’t been provided with a specific number of IDPs that are expected to arrive in Sindh,” said a spokesperson for UNICEF. “But administering anti-polio drops at all entry and exit points will help in eradicating the virus.”

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-27961929**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-27961929)

**The News -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-257407-Polio-threat-likely-to-intensify-with-a**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-257407-Polio-threat-likely-to-intensify-with-a)

**Woman raped and hanged from tree**

A 21-year-old woman was raped and hanged from a tree in Pakistan, police said, in a case bearing a chilling resemblance to a spate of similar attacks that sparked outrage in neighbouring India. The woman's boyfriend of six months confessed to the rape and murder and has been taken into custody, police said. In March, a 17-year-old Pakistani victim of a gang-rape died after self-immolating in protest at a police decision to turn a key suspect free.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/asia/2014/06/20/Police-Pakistani-woman-raped-killed-and-hanged-from-tree.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/asia/2014/06/20/Police-Pakistani-woman-raped-killed-and-hanged-from-tree.html)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**West Africa Ebola crisis 'out of control': MSF**

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is "totally out of control,'' a senior official from MSF has said. Bart Janssens, the director of operations for the group in Brussels, told Associated Press on Friday that the medical group was stretched to the limit in its capacity to respond and that more help was needed if the outbreak was to be stopped. Ebola has been linked to around 330 deaths in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, according to the latest numbers from WHO.

**Al-jazerra -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/west-africa-ebola-crisis-out-control-2014620152657770137.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/west-africa-ebola-crisis-out-control-2014620152657770137.html)

**Mauritania**

**Leader set to win new term amid poll boycott**

Mauritanians on Saturday cast ballots in a presidential election that incumbent Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was expected to win handily as main opposition rivals boycotted the vote in the largely desert nation. The ex-army general, who seized power in a August 2008 coup, has campaigned strongly on his success in fighting armed groups linked to Al-Qaeda at home and in neighbouring Sahel nations.

Small queues snaked outside several polling stations in the capital Nouakchott before voting got under way at 0700 GMT.

**AFP -** [**http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2014/06/133211/mauritanian-leader-set-to-win-new-term-amid-poll-boycott/**](http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2014/06/133211/mauritanian-leader-set-to-win-new-term-amid-poll-boycott/)

**Nigeria**

**Suicide blast kills three in northeast Nigeria: residents**

A suicide bomber on Sunday rammed his car into a military checkpoint in northeast Nigeria's Borno state near the border with Cameroon killing three soldiers in an attack blamed on Boko Haram Islamists, residents said. Three other soldiers were also injured in the early morning attack in Gwoza town, a resident said. The attack in Gwoza, 100 kilometres from state capital Maiduguri, happened when the bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into the checkpoint outside a secondary school in the town that has come under repeated attack by the insurgents, leaving dozens dead.

**AFP -** [**http://www.deccanchronicle.com/140623/world-africa/article/suicide-blast-kills-three-northeast-nigeria-residents**](http://www.deccanchronicle.com/140623/world-africa/article/suicide-blast-kills-three-northeast-nigeria-residents)

**Authorities wrap up kidnap investigation with 200 girls still missing**

Nigeria wrapped up its inquiry into the abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls by militants on 20 June with little progress to show, reporting almost none had been freed after the initial kidnapping some girls escaped from. Submitting the final report, Brigadier General Ibrahim Sabo said 219 girls remained at large, a total virtually unchanged since Boko Haram militants stormed their secondary school in northeast Borno state on April 14 to kidnap them.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0EV1LZ20140621**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0EV1LZ20140621)

**At least 10 dead in Boko Haram raids on villages**

At least 10 people were killed Saturday in raids by suspected Boko Haram gunmen on two villages near the town of Chibok where Boko Haram abducted more than 200 girls in April, residents and local leaders said. Military fighter jets dropped bombs on the insurgents, halting the attacks after nine hours, said a Christian priest in Chibok, some 11km from the attacked villages. The attacks were in apparent reprisals for the killing of eight Boko Haram fighters by a local vigilante in Kwaranglum on Tuesday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-1-257558-10-dead-in-Boko-Haram-raids-on-Nigeria-villages**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-1-257558-10-dead-in-Boko-Haram-raids-on-Nigeria-villages)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-27963728**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-27963728)

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