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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Western countries urge citizens to leave Libya as civil war intensifies**

Western countries urged their citizens to leave Libya yesterday, as the country descended further into civil war and British diplomats came under fire. As fighting raged across the country leaving 59 dead, Britain warned against travel to Libya, and told those already there to leave. "British nationals in Libya should leave now by commercial means," the Foreign Office said. Britain's embassy would remain open but with reduced staff. France, Germany and the Netherlands issued similar warnings. "The situation is extremely unpredictable and uncertain," the German foreign ministry said. "German nationals are at increased risk of kidnapping and attacks." Earlier on Sunday, a vehicle carrying a British diplomat was ambushed and sprayed with gunfire on the outskirts of Tripoli.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/27/libya-western-citizens-leave-civil-war**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/27/libya-western-citizens-leave-civil-war)

**United Nations**

**UN SC calls for humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza**

The UN SC agreed on a statement on Sunday urging Israel, Palestinians and Islamist Hamas militants to implement a humanitarian truce beyond the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr and engage in efforts to achieve a durable ceasefire. The statement expresses strong support for "an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire, allowing for the delivery of urgently needed assistance" in Gaza, where Israeli troops and Hamas have been fighting for nearly three weeks. All 15 council members had agreed on the statement, diplomats said, and it would be formally adopted at a midnight meeting on Sunday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140728024437-07vz6**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140728024437-07vz6)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Court orders arrest of 12 more police officers in wiretap probe**

A Turkish court on Saturday ordered the formal arrest of 12 more police officers, including the former head of Istanbul's intelligence unit, pending charges they may have illegally wiretapped Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, media said. The detention of 115 police officers in overnight raids earlier this week ratcheted up a power struggle between Erdogan and his erstwhile ally, Fethullah Gulen, an influential Islamic scholar based in Pennsylvania, whose followers took up key posts in the police and judiciary during Erdogan's 11 years in power.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140726201338-m9krs/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140726201338-m9krs/?source=search)

**Ukraine**

**Mayor of central city shot dead**

The mayor of the central Ukrainian town of Kremenchuk was shot dead on 26 July and the house of another mayor in Lviv to the West was hit by fire from a grenade launcher, the Interior Ministry said. An aide to the country's Interior Minister, said the mayor of Kremenchuk was killed when a car pulled up to his own, and an unidentified person fired three shots from a gun with a silencer. "It is well know that the mayor was supported by a significant number of people in Kremenchuk. During Maidan, he supported activists, who local police and the prosecutor wanted to imprison," the aide said on his Facebook page. He added that a grenade launcher was fired overnight at the house of Lviv's mayor, who was not home at the time. "Most probably these crimes are not connected," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/07/26/ukraine-crisis-mayor-idINKBN0FV08D20140726**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/07/26/ukraine-crisis-mayor-idINKBN0FV08D20140726)

**At least 13 people including two children, killed in rebel city**

Thirteen people including two children were killed Sunday in fierce clashes in the key insurgent holdout of Gorlivka in east Ukraine where government troops are battling rebel fighters, local authorities said. "As a result of military actions in Gorlivka 13 people have died, among them two children of one and five," the Donetsk regional administration said in a statement, adding that operations by medical teams in the crucial insurgent base, a city of some 250,000 around 45 kilometres north of Donetsk, were hampered by "constant shooting".

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/107207/World/International/-including-two-children,-killed-in-Ukraine-rebel-c.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/107207/World/International/-including-two-children,-killed-in-Ukraine-rebel-c.aspx)

**Intense fighting in the east “extremely alarming”, as UN releases new report**

A total breakdown of law and order and a reign of fear and terror have been inflicted by armed groups on the population of eastern Ukraine, according to a new report issued today by the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Casualty figures are hard to gauge reliably, the report says. However, based on the best data available, conservative estimates by the Human Rights Mission and the World Health Organisation puts the number of those who have been killed from mid-April to 15 July as 1,000 people. As of 26 July, at least 1,129 people have been killed and 3,442 wounded. Currently the vast majority (86%) of IDPs are from the east, with UNHCR estimating the total to be 101,617 as of 25 July - an increase of more than 15,000 since the reporting period ended on 15 July.

**OHCHR -** [**http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E**](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E)

**Fighting in the east blocks access to Flight MH17 wreckage**

Ukrainian armed forces on 27 July mounted a major onslaught against pro-Russian separatist fighters in the country's east in an attempt to gain control over the area where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down earlier this month. Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported on 27 July that a column of Ukrainian armored personnel carriers, trucks and tanks had entered the town of Shakhtarsk, 10 miles west of the site of the crash. Shakhtarsk is a strategic town in the area. By controlling the town, the Ukrainian army would be cutting off the regional capital, Donetsk, from the highway leading to the Russian border. Earlier on 27 Junly, a team of international monitors said they had abandoned plans to visit the crash site due to fears it was not safe, even though Malaysia had said that rebels agreed to allow access.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/27/police-visit-to-mh17disastersitecanceled.html**](http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/27/police-visit-to-mh17disastersitecanceled.html)

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/07/ukraine-forces-battle-mh17-crash-site-201472822343741792.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/07/ukraine-forces-battle-mh17-crash-site-201472822343741792.html)

EAP

**China**

**Dual typhoons kill 64 people, displaced more than 800,000**

The body count from super typhoon Rammasun in China has reached 62 with another 21 people still missing, while typhoon Matmo has claimed two lives, according to latest official figures. The strongest typhoon hitting south China in four decades, Rammasun brought gales, downpours and floods, affecting over 11 million people in the provinces of Guangdong, Hainan, and Yunnan as well as Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said in a statement. A total of 862,000 people have been resettled and some 261,000 are in urgent need of basic necessities. The typhoon also caused direct economic losses of $6.25 billion. Meanwhile, a separate statement from the ministry said two people were killed and another two were missing as the impact of typhoon Matmo extends to the provinces of Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Shandong and Guangdong. Guangdong and Jiangxi each reported one death. More than one million people in the six provinces had been affected by the typhoon, with 251,000 relocated and some 2,800 in urgent need of basic living supplies, it said. Natural disasters, including floods, hail, typhoons and earthquakes, have affected 120 million people this year in China, leaving 533 people dead and 97 missing, figures from the ministry show.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/25/c\_133511381.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/25/c_133511381.htm)

**Myanmar**

**UN envoy warns of deepening ethnic divisions in Myanmar**

A senior U.N. official on Saturday warned of a growing polarization between Buddhist and Muslim communities in Myanmar and said the living conditions in camps housing displaced Muslims were deplorable. Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, held a news conference at the end of a 10-day visit to the country and called on the government to tackle the recurring issue of inter-communal violence. Lee's itinerary included camps in the western state of Rakhine housing some 140,000 stateless Muslim Rohingya. She also visited the northern state of Kachin, where more than 100,000 people have been displaced since fighting between ethnic minority rebels and the government erupted in June 2011, ending a 17-year ceasefire.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140726181531-gtmy3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140726181531-gtmy3)

**Philippines**

**Militants open fire on vehicles in the south killing 19 people**

Militants in the Philippines killed 19 people on 29 July in revenge for their clan's support of government efforts to bring stability to the resource-rich region and the military warned of more bloodshed. While the government has reached a tentative peace deal with the main rebel group, members of the hardline Abu Sayyaf are still fighting. About 50 members of the Abu Sayyaf attacked a convoy of vehicles taking people to a celebration for the Eid al-Fitr holiday outside Talipao town on Jolo island. Eighteen people, most of them women, were killed and 11 people, many of them children, were wounded. The victims belonged to clan which has been helping government peace efforts with information about the rebels and the ambush was retaliation, a military official said..

**ABC -** [**http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2014-07-28/islamic-militants-open-fire-on-vehicles-in-southern-philippines-killing-16-people/1349144**](http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2014-07-28/islamic-militants-open-fire-on-vehicles-in-southern-philippines-killing-16-people/1349144)

**Reuters -** [**http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0FX0J720140728**](http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0FX0J720140728)

**Thailand**

**Five people dead as fresh violence rattles south**

A 10-year-old girl died in a grenade blast while four others, including a soldier, were killed in a shootout hours later in Thailand’s war-torn deep south, officials said on 28 July. The girl was killed when suspected rebels, who are fighting for a greater level of autonomy from the Thai state, detonated a grenade near a mosque in Pattani province late on 27 July. “She died later at a hospital,” a police commander of Saiburi district said, adding five teenage girls and two military rangers, the apparent target of the attack, were also wounded. A gun fight this morning in a so-called security “red zone” in neighbouring Narathiwat province left one soldier and three suspected rebels dead, marring the start of the Eid. “One soldier was killed at the scene, three gunmen were also killed, a policeman was seriously injured,” the Rueso police said. He said the wounded policeman was a Muslim on his way back home to celebrate Eid.

**AFP -** [**http://www.therakyatpost.com/world/2014/07/28/five-dead-fresh-violence-rattles-thai-south/**](http://www.therakyatpost.com/world/2014/07/28/five-dead-fresh-violence-rattles-thai-south/)

ESA

**Somalia**

**UN warns of alarming malnutrition rates in Mogadishu**

The UN has reported alarming rates of malnutrition in the Somali capital where aid agencies cannot meet the needs of 350,000 people due to insufficient funds, drought and conflict. OCHA said the Somali government had compared the situation to the run-up to a 2011 famine that killed 260,000 people. The UN has sought to improve its early warning mechanisms after its failure to spot indications of crisis in 2010 was blamed for the scale of the famine that followed in a nation torn apart by years of conflict. "Alarming rates of malnutrition have been observed among displaced communities in Mogadishu," OCHA said in a report released at the weekend, citing a study by a unit of the FAO.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140727092728-5vorq/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140727092728-5vorq/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**AFP -** [**http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/658038-hundreds-of-thousands-need-food-aid-in-somali-capital-un.html**](http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/658038-hundreds-of-thousands-need-food-aid-in-somali-capital-un.html)

**South Sudan**

**Children cannot wait for famine before world acts – UNICEF**

The Executive Directors of **UNICEF** and WFP warn that children in South Sudan cannot wait any longer before the world takes action. “The world should not wait for a famine to be announced while children here are dying each and every day,” said **UNICEF** Executive Director Anthony Lake, speaking after a visit to the devastated city of Malakal, where tens of thousands of people still take shelter on a UN base. The two executive directors said they fear the world is allowing a repeat of what occurred in Somalia and the Horn of Africa just three years ago, when early warnings of extreme hunger and escalating malnutrition went largely unheeded until official famine levels were announced. Nearly one million children under five years old in South Sudan will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2014, according to **UNICEF** and WFP. If the world fails to provide the help needed right now to accelerate and scale up life-saving food and nutrition efforts, **UNICEF** estimates that 50,000 children could die from malnutrition in the course of this year.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_74581.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_74581.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**Country launches emergency plan to combat El Nino drought**

Colombia has launched an emergency plan to combat the impact of the El Nino weather phenomenon, which has led to drought in several regions of the country, causing the death of livestock and damage to crops. Among the measures that were announced by the President were drilling water wells, purchasing water trucks, subsidizing animal feed and offering financing to the agricultural sector. The Colombian President also said Colombia would buy helicopters and other equipment to fight wildfires sparked by the hot dry weather. While water rationing has not been introduced, the President urged Colombians to reduce consumption, saying the worst of the drought is still to come. "What we've seen is only the start, meaning that the phenomenon in all its intensity could last from October to March or April of next year," he reported after an emergency cabinet meeting. There is a 75% to 80% probability that the phenomenon will reach its height between October and December, according to the World Meteorological Organization. Analysts surveyed in a poll last month cited El Nino as one of the reasons they raised their 2014 inflation forecast for Colombia to 3.4%, above the central bank's goal of 3%.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/25/us-colombia-elnino-idUSKBN0FU1U820140725**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/25/us-colombia-elnino-idUSKBN0FU1U820140725)

**Paraguay**

**Floods displace more than 88,000 in Asuncion**

Some 88,200 people have been displaced here by floods caused by two months of rising waters in the Paraguay River, while nationwide the number of those driven from their homes dropped from 245,000 to 222,000, the head of the SEN emergency management agency reported. The evacuees have moved into some 120 ramshackle shelters in streets and squares, where they put together huts with the wood and metal sheeting provided by the authorities. Since reaching its peak during July at a height of 7.38 meters on its course through Asuncion, the Paraguay River has dropped minimally and for three days has been at the level of 7.16 meters, the weather service said on 25 July. In recent months the river has engulfed homes, schools and streets along the banks of the river in the capital, forcing residents to get away from there several times. Besides the capital, the areas most affected by the flooding are Ñeembucu province, with 44,795 people affected, Presidente Hayes with some 35,170 and Alto Paraguay with 24,090 affected. The lowering of the Paraguay River's level will be slow and progressive, experts say, adding that the arrival of the El Niño phenomenon within a few months will bring more rain than is normal at that time of year, with the probability that the water level will rise once again.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/ultimas\_noticias/2014/07/140725\_ultnot\_desplazados\_en\_paraguay\_por\_inundaciones\_bd.shtml**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/ultimas_noticias/2014/07/140725_ultnot_desplazados_en_paraguay_por_inundaciones_bd.shtml)

**Venezuela**

**Leader rallies socialists at first post-Chavez congress**

Venezuela's ruling Socialist Party began a six-day congress on Saturday with President Nicolas Maduro seeking to fire up militants and quell dissidents who say he is failing to fix the economy or end graft. It was the party's third congress since formation in 2008, but the first without its charismatic founder, former president Hugo Chavez who died last year of cancer after ruling the South American OPEC nation for 14 years.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140727025648-f7ppq/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140727025648-f7ppq/?source=jtTheWire)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Gaza war rages despite Hamas, Israel truce pledges**

Israel and Hamas launched new attacks Sunday in the raging Gaza war, despite going back and forth over proposals for a temporary halt to nearly three weeks of fighting ahead of a major Muslim holiday. The failure to reach even a brief humanitarian lull in the fighting illustrated the difficulties in securing a more permanent truce as the sides remain far apart on their terms. After initially rejecting an Israeli offer Saturday for a 24-hour truce, Hamas said Sunday that it had agreed to hold fire ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. But as Israel's Cabinet met to discuss the offer and the ongoing war, rockets rained down on southern Israel and Israeli strikes could be heard in Gaza. Each side blamed the other for scuttling the efforts.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/gaza-war-rages-despite-hamas-israel-truce-pledges-155413264.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/gaza-war-rages-despite-hamas-israel-truce-pledges-155413264.html)

**Egypt**

**Mortar attack kills four children in Egypt's Sinai**

Four children were killed on Saturday in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula when a mortar round hit their home, in an apparent attack by militants targeting soldiers, security officials said. The attack took place in the northern Sinai town of El-Joura, believed to be a bastion of Islamist militants who have killed scores of police and soldiers over the past year. Four people were wounded in the blast, the officials said, adding that the children were all under 15 years old. Soldiers and police had been combing the area a day after militants shot dead two senior army and police officers as they were driving home. The military said on Saturday its forces had killed 12 militants the day before in several operations.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140726/mortar-attack-kills-four-children-egypts-sinai-1**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140726/mortar-attack-kills-four-children-egypts-sinai-1)

**Iraq**

**Army kills 17 people in anti-jihadist raid**

An Iraqi government raid on jihadist targets in a flashpoint town southwest of Baghdad killed 17 people on 28 July, including at least three civilians, medical and tribal sources said. "Bombardment targeted the Fadhiyya district at 1:00 am," a tribal chief from Jurf al-Sakhr, a town 60 kilometres from Baghdad, reported. He said two women and a child were among the dead, a toll confirmed by a doctor at the main hospital in Iskandariyah. Both said that 12 people were also wounded and that some of them were transferred to the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah in the neighbouring province of Anbar. That suggests some of the casualties of the raid were jihadist fighters from the Islamic State or one of its allied Sunni militant groups, although none of the sources could say how many.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/iraq-army-kills-17-anti-jihadist-raid-doctor-091134959.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/iraq-army-kills-17-anti-jihadist-raid-doctor-091134959.html)

**Libya**

**US evacuates Libya embassy after "free-wheeling" militia violence**

The United States evacuated its embassy in Libya on Saturday, driving its staff under heavy military guard across the border to Tunisia after escalating clashes broke out between rival militias in Tripoli. Security in the Libyan capital has deteriorated following two weeks of fighting between brigades of former rebel fighters who have exchanged rocket, cannon and artillery fire in southern Tripoli near the embassy compound.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140726164255-jbnbh/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140726164255-jbnbh/?source=search)

**At least 97 people killed in two weeks of clashes in Tripoli**

Two weeks of clashes between rival Libyan militias battling for control of Tripoli's international airport have left more than 97 people dead and 400 wounded, the health ministry said Sunday. The ministry's toll was based on casualty reports from eight public hospitals in the capital and its suburbs, and did not include those taken to medical facilities outside the city.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/38-killed-libya-army-islamists-clash-benghazi-104010394.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/38-killed-libya-army-islamists-clash-benghazi-104010394.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Israeli shells kills 18 Gazans of a single family**

Israeli tank shelling killed 18 Palestinians from a single family in the southern Gaza Strip on 26 July, the Gaza health ministry said, shortly before a 12-hour humanitarian truce agreed by Israel and Hamas went into effect. The Gaza Health Ministry spokesperson said that the 18 members of the Al-Najar family had been trapped inside their house in Khuzaa village east of Khan Younis since 24 July and that many others were wounded in Israeli tank shelling. The fatalities brought up to 881 the number of Palestinians, most of them civilians, killed since the Israeli Gaza offensive began on 8 July.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140726051351-nhzd3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140726051351-nhzd3)

**Israel acknowledges mortar shell hit UN school**

Israel acknowledged on 27 July that troops fired a mortar shell that hit the courtyard of a UN school in Gaza last week, but said aerial footage shows the yard was empty at the time and that the shell could not have killed anyone. The shell was not fired at the school intentionally, an army spokesman said. Palestinian officials have said three Israeli tank shells hit the school in the town of Beit Hanoun last week, killing 16 people and wounding dozens. It was one of the single deadliest incidents during three weeks of Israel-Hamas fighting. The school was one of dozens used to house tens of thousands of Palestinians displaced by heavy fighting, especially in areas of Gaza bordering Israel. The UN aid agency that operates the schools called for a full investigation.

**AP -** [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/27/israel-beit-hanoun\_n\_5625098.html?utm\_hp\_ref=world&ir=WorldPost**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/27/israel-beit-hanoun_n_5625098.html?utm_hp_ref=world&ir=WorldPost)

**Syria**

**Islamic State kills Syrian soldiers, captures parts of base**

Fighters from al Qaeda offshoot Islamic State killed at least 50 Syrian army soldiers and took over parts of their base on 25 July outside the northern city of Raqqa, as the radicals escalated their attacks on government forces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Fighters from the ultra-hardline group captured and killed at least 50 members of the army's 17th Division after ambushing them outside Raqqa when they withdrew from the area where they were based, the Observatory said. Raqqa is already a stronghold of Islamic State, which has advanced in Syria and taken over swaths of territory in neighbouring Iraq in what it has described as a bid to establish an Islamic caliphate. Raqqa is the only Syrian provincial capital to have fallen completely outside Assad's control and Islamic State has paraded military hardware through its streets.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/25/uk-syria-crisis-raqqa-idUKKBN0FU2A220140725**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/25/uk-syria-crisis-raqqa-idUKKBN0FU2A220140725)

**Six children among 15 dead in Aleppo bombing**

Six children were among at least 15 civilians killed in overnight bomb attacks by government and rebel forces in the divided city of Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on 28 July. "At least nine civilians, three of them children, were killed in barrel bombs (dropped by regime aircraft) in Shaar," an eastern district, said the Observatory. The group, which relies on an extensive network of medical, military and activist sources on the ground, warned the death toll could rise because of the large number of people of seriously wounded. "Six more civilians, including three children and a woman, were killed in mortar shelling by rebels" of the government-held district of Jabiriyeh, the Observatory said.

**AFP -** [**http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/latest-news/293382/6-children-among-15-dead-in-aleppo-bombing**](http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/latest-news/293382/6-children-among-15-dead-in-aleppo-bombing)

**Yemen**

**At least six dead in attacks on southern army posts**

Militant attacks on two army outposts in southern Yemen killed at least eight people early on 27 Julay, local officials said, two months after the government said it had cleared that area of al Qaeda fighters in an offensive. On 27 July morning two outposts in Mahfad were attacked by men driving car bombs followed by shooting. A bomb-laden car was driven towards each of the two outposts, but both exploded before reaching them after soldiers opened fire. There were subsequent exchanges of fire between militants and army members. A local security official reported that two militants had been killed by explosions while driving the cars and another five in the later shooting. Four soldiers also died, he said. Another local official said six militants and two soldiers had been killed. Both officials said the militants were with al Qaeda.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140727093229-xlvsk/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140727093229-xlvsk/)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Taliban claims attack on police official**

Six fighters killed during raid in Kandahar's Spin Boldak district, a day after massacre of Shia Hazaras in Ghor. Taliban fighter have killed a civilian and a border policeman before being shot dead by police during an attack on the home of a well-known provincial police chief in southern Afghanistan, according to officials. The six attackers, all of whom were wearing suicide vests, launched the attack from a school building near General Abdul Razeq's house in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, but were shot before they could enter the residence, a provincial police spokespersonman, said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/taliban-attack-201472745225601966.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/taliban-attack-201472745225601966.html)

**India**

**Authorities battle to contain "brain fever" as death toll approaches 570**

Almost 570 people in India have died after contracting encephalitis, commonly known as "brain fever", health authorities said on Friday, warning the death toll may rise further. Outbreaks of both Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis are common during India’s monsoon season and claim hundreds of lives each year. But this year, major outbreaks - usually most concentrated in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar - have spread to other regions such as West Bengal and Assam - killing 568 people. In West Bengal, where at least 111 people have died from both strains, a senior health official said authorities were taking emergency steps to contain the outbreak.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140725123048-zt4bi/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140725123048-zt4bi/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Curfew relaxed after clashes in Saharanpur**

Authorities in India's Uttar Pradesh state have relaxed a curfew in the city of Saharanpur after clashes between Sikhs and Muslims left three people dead and 20 others injured. The police said 38 people have been arrested in the connection with the incident. The violence began early on 26 July after Sikhs started building on land which Muslims claim belongs to them. Communal fighting between Sikhs and Muslims is rare in India.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28519938**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28519938)

**Pakistan**

**Mob kills woman, girls, over 'blasphemous' Facebook post**

A Pakistani mob killed a woman member of a religious sect and two of her granddaughters after a sect member was accused of posting blasphemous material on Facebook, police said, the latest instance of growing violence against minorities. The dead, including a seven-year-old girl and her baby sister, were Ahmadis. A 1984 Pakistani law declared them non-Muslims and many Pakistanis consider them heretics. Police said that the violence in the town of Gujranwala, 220 km southeast of Islamabad, started with an altercation between young men, one of whom was an Ahmadi accused of posting "objectionable material". "Later, a crowd of 150 people came to the police station demanding the registration of a blasphemy case against the accused," said one police officer who declined to be identified. "As police were negotiating with the crowd, another mob attacked and started burning the houses of Ahmadis." The youth accused of making the Facebook post had not been injured, he said. A spokesperson for the Ahmadi community, said it was the worst attack on the community since simultaneous attacks on Ahmadi places of worship killed 86 Ahmadis four years ago. The police officer said they had tried to stop the mob. Accusations of blasphemy are rocketing in Pakistan, from one in 2011 to at least 68 last year, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. About 100 people have been accused of blasphemy this year. Human rights workers say the accusations are increasingly used to settle personal vendettas or to grab the property of the accused.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/28/uk-pakistan-islam-murder-idUKKBN0FX0GM20140728**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/28/uk-pakistan-islam-murder-idUKKBN0FX0GM20140728)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**UN says more support urgently needed to tackle growing food insecurity in the Sahel**

The UN on Friday called on the international donor community to renew a commitment to fight hunger and food insecurity in the Sahel by protecting and strengthening the resilience of the poor and very poor families in the region. Various factors, including the impacts of several ongoing conflicts and recurring droughts are exacerbating food insecurity in the region, FAO and the UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Robert Piper, said in a joint statement. "If we are going to break out of this cycle of chronic crises across the Sahel region, emergency assistance to vulnerable farmers and pastoralists has to be considered a top priority," Robert Piper said.

**FAO -** [**http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/239759/icode/**](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/239759/icode/)

**US monitoring Ebola outbreak, aiding bid to stop spread**

US officials are closely monitoring the outbreak of deadly Ebola virus which has now reached Nigeria, and is working with governments and aid groups to try to stop the spread. "The US government continues to provide a comprehensive, multi-agency response to assist those countries affected by the Ebola virus outbreak," he added, saying multiple US agencies were "contributing to the outbreak response efforts." But there were growing international concerns after a Liberian national died on 25 July in quarantine in Lagos, confirmation that the virus has reached Africa's most populous country.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/us-monitoring-ebola-outbeak-aiding-bid-stop-spread-140453438.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/us-monitoring-ebola-outbeak-aiding-bid-stop-spread-140453438.html)

**CAR**

**African Union says disarmament process to begin in CAR**

African Union has confirmed that a disarmament process will soon take effect in the crisis-hit Central African Republic (CAR), Press TV reports. Ismael Chergui, the African Union’s commissioner for peace and security, said the process will be launched by some 6,000 African Union (AU) forces, who are already in the country on a peacekeeping mission. The development comes after a ceasefire agreement was signed on July 23 between warring sides in the CAR to end months of violence. “This process will be done under the leadership of the UN and Africa Union. I think we have the two representatives there who are working on that issue with the support of MISCA (AU mission in CAR) and other partners,” Chergui told Press TV.

**Press TV -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/07/27/372945/disarmament-process-to-begin-in-car/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/07/27/372945/disarmament-process-to-begin-in-car/)

**Cameroon**

**Boko Haram militants seize Cameroon vice PM's wife, and kill 15 people**

Boko Haram militants attacked Kolofata, a town in Cameroon's Far North Region near Nigeria, on 27 July and seized several people including the wife of Cameroon's Vice Prime Minister Amadou Ali, a military commander in the region said. Meanwhile, the death toll from the two reportedly simultaneous raids by Nigerian extremists on the palace of the Sultan Kolofata, and the nearby home of one of the country's most senior politicians, the deputy premier, rose on 28 July from six to at least 15 people.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/140831-death-toll-from-boko-haram-cameroon-raids-rises-to-15**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/140831-death-toll-from-boko-haram-cameroon-raids-rises-to-15)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140727113137-ddkyh**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140727113137-ddkyh)

**Liberia**

**Country shuts border crossings, restricts gatherings to curb Ebola spreading**

The Liberian government on 27 July closed most of the nation's border crossings and introduced stringent health measures to curb the spread of the deadly Ebola virus that has killed at least 660 people across the region. The new measures announced by the government on Sunday came as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone struggle to contain the worst outbreak yet of the virus. Speaking at a task force meeting, Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the government is doing everything to fight the virus including inspecting and testing all outgoing and incoming passengers by Liberia's airport authority.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/28/us-health-ebola-africa-idUSKBN0FX00V20140728**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/28/us-health-ebola-africa-idUSKBN0FX00V20140728)

**Ebola kills Liberian doctor, 2 Americans infected**

One of Liberia's most high-profile doctors, Dr. Samuel Brisbane, has died of Ebola, officials said on 27 July, and an American physician was being treated for the deadly virus, highlighting the risks facing health workers trying to combat an outbreak that has killed more than 670 people, the largest ever recorded.. The Samaritan's Purse issued a news release saying that Dr. Kent Brantly tested positive for the disease and was being treated at a hospital in Monrovia. Brantly is the medical director for the aid organization's case management center in the city. Meanwhile, a second US citizen working in Liberia has tested positive for the Ebola virus. Nancy Writebol is employed by SIM in Liberia and was helping the joint SIM/Samaritan’s Purse team that is treating Ebola patients at the Case Management Center in Monrovia.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/american-doctor-africa-tests-positive-ebola-24729144**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/american-doctor-africa-tests-positive-ebola-24729144)

**Samaritan’s Purse -** [**http://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/samaritans-purse-doctor-serving-in-liberia-west-africa-tests-positive-for-ebola/**](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/samaritans-purse-doctor-serving-in-liberia-west-africa-tests-positive-for-ebola/)

**Nigeria**

**Shi'ite leader says military kills 3 sons, 30 supporters**

The leader of Nigeria's minority Shi'ite Muslims accused the military on Saturday of killing three of his sons and 30 of his supporters when they opened fire on a protest the previous day. The military said they were fired upon first by someone in the crowd and that they killed nine people. The Shi'ites were protesting Israeli attacks on Gaza and also marching to observe of a religious holiday, in the northern city of Zaria, where Ibrahim Zakzaky's Islamic Movement of Nigeria is based, when a troop convoy tried to pass.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/nigeriaNews/idAFL6N0Q10M320140726**](http://af.reuters.com/article/nigeriaNews/idAFL6N0Q10M320140726)

**Boko Haram execute 12 in northeast town**

Boko Haram Islamists have executed 12 people including a village chief in a remote part of northeastern Nigeria, residents said Saturday. The attackers entered the village of Garubula, in Biu district, late Wednesday and dragged their victims out of their homes before shooting them, the residents said. "They killed 12 people including the village chief whom they shot in the head," said resident Mallam Idrissa told AFP. Wednesday also saw bombings in north-central Kaduna blamed on Boko Haram in which 42 people died while the presumed targets of the attacks -- a prominent cleric and a former head of state -- escaped with their lives. Boko Haram, which is seeking to install an extremist Islamic state in Nigeria, has recently stepped up attacks on remote villages in the northeast.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/107146/World/International/Boko-Haram-execute--in-northeast-town-Residents.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/107146/World/International/Boko-Haram-execute--in-northeast-town-Residents.aspx)

**Country on alert following Ebola death**

Nigeria has stepped up surveillance at its ports and borders, following the country's first confirmed death from the Ebola virus. The Health Minister says health officials are monitoring airports, seaports and land borders, for people arriving who may show signs of the virus. He commented after officials confirmed that a man who died after arriving in Lagos on a flight from Liberia had tested positive for Ebola. He also said that investigators are trying to track down the other passengers who were on the nearly three-hour flight from Monrovia. Nigeria has become the fourth West African country to confirm the presence of Ebola. The WHO says the disease has killed 672 people in the region. The majority of deaths are in Guinea. In a report, WHO said 319 people had died from Ebola in Guinea. The health organization reported 224 deaths in Sierra Leone and 129 in Liberia.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-on-alert-following-ebola-death/1965830.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-on-alert-following-ebola-death/1965830.html)

**Church bombing in Nigeria's Kano kills five**

At least five people were killed and eight were injured on 27 July in a bomb attack on a Catholic church in a mainly Christian area of Kano, the largest city in Nigeria's north, police said. Police spokesman Frank Mba told AFP that the bomb was "probably an IED (improvised explosive device) thrown from across the street" at the Saint Charles Catholic church in Kano's Sabon Gari district, which has suffered previous attacks by the Islamist group Boko Haram.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/church-bombing-nigerias-kano-kills-five-144842293.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/church-bombing-nigerias-kano-kills-five-144842293.html)

**‘Suicide bomb’ kills several people in Kano**

A female suicide bomber killed several people in northern Nigeria’s Kano city on 28 July, witnesses said, after weekend violence blamed on Boko Haram forced authorities to cancel festivities marking a major Muslim holiday. Multiple witnesses said the attacker targeted women who had lined up in the Hotoro area on the outskirts of Kano to buy kerosene. The queue was long, said a area vendor, because the widely-used cooking gas is often in short supply in Kano and when a new shipment comes in women typically rush to their local vendor.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/07/28/-Suicide-bomb-kills-several-people-in-Nigeria-s-Kano.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/07/28/-Suicide-bomb-kills-several-people-in-Nigeria-s-Kano.html)

**Sierra Leone**

**First Ebola victim in Freetown on the run**

Officials in Sierra Leone have appealed for help to trace the first known resident in Freetown with Ebola, whose family forcibly removed her from a Freetown hospital after she tested positive for the deadly virus. Radio stations in Freetown, a city of about 1 million people, broadcast the appeal to locate a woman who tested positive for the disease, which has killed 660 people across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since an outbreak was first identified in February. "Saudatu Koroma of 25 Old Railway Line, Brima Lane, Wellington," the announcement said. "She is a positive case and her being out there is a risk to all. We need the public to help us locate her."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/25/us-health-ebola-africa-idUSKBN0FU1DB20140725**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/25/us-health-ebola-africa-idUSKBN0FU1DB20140725)

**Ebola centre under guard after protest march, virus is still spreading**

Police were guarding an Ebola treatment centre in Freetown on 26 July, the day after thousands marched on the clinic following allegations by a former nurse the deadly virus was invented to conceal "cannibalistic rituals" there, a regional police chief said. Sierra Leone now has the highest number of cases, at 454, surpassing neighbouring Guinea where the outbreak originated in February.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140726194636-5j5e7/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140726194636-5j5e7/?source=search)

**Burying Ebola’s victims**

They are all young men, in their early twenties who, just a few short weeks ago, would have been studying, going to work at a construction site, or ferrying passengers around on their taxi motorbikes. Today, they are burying bodies, one after the other, sometimes up to eight or nine a day. This is how life has changed since the Ebola virus disease arrived in Kailahun district, in eastern Sierra Leone. To date, there have been more than 50 official burials, and with dozens of patients at the isolation centre, and more arriving every day, it is likely there will be more. The dead body management team oversees two types of burials. The bodies they receive from the case management centre are completely disinfected in advance, do not contain any trace of Ebola, and are therefore safe to handle without the full protective gear.

**IFRC -** [**http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/africa/sierra-leone/burying-ebolas-victims-in-sierra-leone-66528/**](http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/africa/sierra-leone/burying-ebolas-victims-in-sierra-leone-66528/)

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