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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**South Sudan rebel chief meets Sudan's Bashir**

South Sudan's rebel leader Riek Machar held talks with Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir Sunday as a deadline passed to end months of civil war in the South. Machar is on his first visit to Khartoum since December when his forces and those loyal to President Salva Kiir began the war which three cease-fires have failed to end. There has been growing international condemnation of the fighting which has killed thousands of people and uprooted more than 1.5 million.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-10/266689-south-sudan-rebel-chief-meets-sudans-bashir.ashx#axzz3A0fnlnB0**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-10/266689-south-sudan-rebel-chief-meets-sudans-bashir.ashx#axzz3A0fnlnB0)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Will Armenia and Azerbaijan reach a negotiated solution?**

During the past two weeks, the ceasefire violations at the line of contact between the Armenian and Azerbaijani armed forces went well beyond the usual and minor [skirmishes](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/08/five-killed-clashes-over-nagorny-karabakh-201483212159938.html), causing two dozen casualties on both sides. The moment that the long dormant, but simmering, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Caucasus began to show signs of eruption, the UN, the US, Russia, the EU, Iran and many other countries rushed to urge restraint, respect of the ceasefire agreement, and an immediate resumption of [interrupted](http://townhall.com/news/politics-elections/2014/08/04/death-toll-rises-in-azerbaijanarmenia-conflict-n1874446) negotiations. On August 9 and 10, the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, met in the Russian resort city of Sochi. No doubt, respecting the ceasefire and advancing the peace process were the main agenda items. Committing to these goals is one thing, fulfilling them is another. The prevailing circumstances, however, are hardly conducive for their realisation.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/08/armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-kara-201489124936667673.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/08/armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-kara-201489124936667673.html)

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Bosnia hit by fresh flooding, two people missing**

Police in Bosnia searched on 8 August for two people swept away during the second bout of torrential rainfall since May, when the Balkans were hit by the worst floods in more than a century. Bosnia suffered almost 2 billion euros worth of damage to homes, infrastructure and industry in May, when heavy rains caused rivers to burst their banks, sweep away roads and bridges and set off hundreds of landslides. More than 20 people died in Bosnia and more than 60 in Serbia. There were similar scenes, on a lesser scale, this week in Bosnia and parts of Serbia, where a man drowned in his cellar on Tuesday. The government of the mainly Bosniak and Croat Federation, which together with the Serb Republic makes up Bosnia, declared a state of emergency and allocated urgent funding for the worst hit areas.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/08/us-bosnia-flood-idUKKBN0G81IU20140808**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/08/us-bosnia-flood-idUKKBN0G81IU20140808)

**Turkey**

**Erdogan wins Turkey’s presidential election**

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey’s prime minister, has won the country's first direct presidential election in the first round after taking more that 50 percent of the vote, according to Turkey's election board. Sunday's victory will extend Erdogan's more than 10-year rule over the country for another five years. "The provisional results show that Erdogan has the majority of the valid votes," High Election Board chairman Sadi Guven told a news conference in the capital Ankara.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/erdogan-wins-turkey-presidential-election-2014810172347586150.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/erdogan-wins-turkey-presidential-election-2014810172347586150.html)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine fighting kills 15 government soldiers**

Fierce battles on Ukraine's porous eastern border left 15 government servicemen dead as fears of a possible invasion swirled after NATO urged Moscow to withdraw its troops along the frontier. International tensions also rose as Western countries hit out at a Russian food embargo imposed as revenge for sanctions slapped on Moscow over its backing for insurgents in Ukraine. Kiev said seven soldiers and eight border guards were killed over the past 24 hours as a bloody three-day battle with pro-Russian rebels eventually forced several government units to retreat from the border in the southeast of the war-torn Lugansk region.

**AFP –** [**http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/europe/39628-140808-ukraine-fighting-kills-15-government-soldiers**](http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/europe/39628-140808-ukraine-fighting-kills-15-government-soldiers)

**AP –** [**http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Barricades-come-down-in-Kiev-5678354.php**](http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Barricades-come-down-in-Kiev-5678354.php)

**Ukrainian rebels say they are ready for ceasefire**

Pro-Russian separatists said on 9 August they were ready for a ceasefire with the Kiev government after increasing gains by Ukrainian forces against rebel forces. "We are ready for a ceasefire to prevent the proliferation of a humanitarian disaster in Donbass," Alexander Zakharchenko, prime minister of the self-proclaimed Donetsk people's republic, said in a statement, referring to the area of eastern [Ukraine](http://www.reuters.com/places/ukraine?lc=int_mb_1001) where combat is being waged. He warned that Donetsk, the main industrial hub which is the center of the rebel resistance, faced a lack of food, water, and electricity, but said the rebels were ready to defend the city of around one million people. "In the event of a storm of the city the number of victims will increase by magnitude. We have no humanitarian corridors. There is no supply of medicines ... food supplies are nearing their end," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/us-ukraine-crisis-russian-military-idUSKBN0G90CU20140809**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/us-ukraine-crisis-russian-military-idUSKBN0G90CU20140809)

**Ukraine's forces say close to taking rebel-held Donetsk**

Ukrainian government forces are preparing for the final stage of recapturing the city of Donetsk from pro-Russian separatist rebels after making significant gains that have divided rebel forces, a military spokesman said on Monday. The spokesman, Andriy Lysenko, said Kiev's forces had now cut Donetsk off from the other main rebel-held city of Luhansk on the border with Russia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/11/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0GA0C620140811**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/11/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0GA0C620140811)

EAP

**Japan**

**Typhoon Halong wounds dozens as it hits Japan**

Typhoon Halong has hit western Japan, leaving dozens of people injured while the coastguard searched for a man who went missing apparently while surfing when the storm hit. The storm was expected to move away from the Japanese archipelago on Sunday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, after it made landfall on the largest and most populous island of Honshu. About 1.6 million people had been ordered to evacuate their homes ahead of the storm, local media reported. In southwestern Wakayama prefecture, a man who was apparently surfing on the Pacific coast went missing earlier in the day, local police said. "According to a witness, a man in a wetsuit was seen drifting about 30 metres offshore and then disappeared," said a local police spokesman. The storm injured at least 70 people throughout the country, public broadcaster NHK said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/08/typhoon-halong-wounds-dozens-as-it-hits-japan-201481053059943418.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/08/typhoon-halong-wounds-dozens-as-it-hits-japan-201481053059943418.html)

ESA

**Somalia**

**Somali Shebab say attack leaves 18 dead on both sides**

Somalia’s hardline Islamists said they fought intense battles on 9 August with government and AU troops in the central Hiran region that left 18 people dead on both sides. Shebab spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab told AFP the deaths occurred after the group’s fighters attacked a base of the AU force in Buloburde town, some 200 km north of the capital Mogadishu.  The casualties could not be immediately confirmed, but the Al-Qaeda-linked extremists said the dead included five of their own men. “Nine soldiers with the African Union, four of their Somali counterparts, and five mujahedeen from our Shebab were killed in the fight,” Musab said. Fighting began around midnight Friday, lasting for about four hours into Saturday morning, he said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2014/08/09/somali-shebab-say-attack-leaves-18-dead-on-both-sides**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2014/08/09/somali-shebab-say-attack-leaves-18-dead-on-both-sides)

**Somalia donors must act now to avoid famine 'catastrophe' –UN**

War-ravaged Somalia is hurtling towards a second famine in three years that could be prevented if donors increased funding, Philippe Lazzarini, United Nations' humanitarian coordinator for Somalia said on Sunday. Lazzarini said rapidly rising malnutrition and food shortages across the country resemble the warning signs which preceded the 2011 famine in which about 260,000 people died. "Only years after this famine where basically we said 'never again', a crisis is unfolding in front of us," he told Reuters. "It would just be morally difficult to justify and to accept that a new crisis of this scope could unfold," he said. Donors have pledged billions of dollars to rebuild Somalia after more than two decades of strife, but little progress has been made, hindered by continued fighting despite the presence of a 22,000-strong African Union peacekeeping force.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/10/us-somalia-aid-idUSKBN0GA0IV20140810**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/10/us-somalia-aid-idUSKBN0GA0IV20140810)

**South Sudan**

**Children targeted in war**

Thousands of children in war-torn in South Sudan have been deliberately killed or abducted to fight in the nearly eight month-long conflict, AU experts said. "The present conflict can be characterised as nothing less than a war on the children of South Sudan," said Julia Sloth-Nielsen, heading the AU committee investigating child rights in the country. "We have received numerous reports of children -- even babies -- being wantonly killed," Sloth-Nielsen said, after a week of investigations by the 11-member African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. More than 900 children have been abducted in the eastern war zone state of Jonglei, while there are confirmed cases of "rape of both girls and boys," the committee said in a statement. In one case in the eastern town of Bor, 490 children were found in mass graves after fighting.

**AFP -** [**http://mobile.nation.co.ke/news/Children-targeted-in-S-Sudan-war/-/1950946/2413094/-/format/xhtml/-/ix5d88z/-/index.html**](http://mobile.nation.co.ke/news/Children-targeted-in-S-Sudan-war/-/1950946/2413094/-/format/xhtml/-/ix5d88z/-/index.html)

**South Sudan crisis: 'Horrific conditions' in flooded UN camp**

At least 40,000 people who fled fighting in South Sudan are staying in horrific conditions at a UN camp, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) says. Many were living in knee-deep, sewage-contaminated floodwater with some sleeping standing up with children in their arms, the medical charity said. MSF urged the UN to move the worst-affected to drier land in Bentiu. Fighting between government and rebel troops has displaced at least 1.5 million people since December. Bentiu has changed hands several times since the crisis began and thousands of people have sought refuge in the UN camp in the town, situated in oil-rich Unity State.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28714774**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28714774)

**Uganda**

**Uganda to appeal anti-gay law annulment**

UGANDA'S government has filed an appeal against a court ruling that overturned an anti-gaylaw, which stipulates life sentences for "aggravated" homosexual sexual acts that include intercoursewith a minor and HIV transmission. "The Attorney General filed a notice showing that he intends to appeal," well-known gay rights activist Dennis Wamala told DPA. The Constitutional Court annulled the law on August 1, based on a legal technicality - it had been passed by parliament in February without a quorum.

**DPA -** [**http://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/uganda-to-appeal-anti-gay-law-annulment/story-e6frfkui-1227019359475**](http://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/uganda-to-appeal-anti-gay-law-annulment/story-e6frfkui-1227019359475)

**Zambia**

# **Zambia bans travellers from countries hit by Ebola virus**

Zambia said it would restrict entry of travelers from countries affected by the Ebola virus and would ban Zambians from travelling to those countries, in one of the strictest moves yet by a southern African country against the deadly virus. "All delegates from any of the countries affected by Ebola virus disease are restricted from entering Zambia until further notice," the Health Ministry said in a statement posted on its website on 9 August.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/health-ebola-zambia-idINL6N0QF0JM20140809**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/health-ebola-zambia-idINL6N0QF0JM20140809)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Bolivia deports Argentine 'dirty war' ex-army officer**

Bolivia has deported an Argentine ex-army officer convicted of serious rights abuses during the 'dirty war' of his country's 1976-1983 military regime, a senior government official said. Jorge Horacio Paez Senestrari, 68, "was handed over to authorities of his country" on the border with Argentina, Bolivian Interior Minister Jorge Perez said in a press conference.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/bolivia-deports-argentine-dirty-war-ex-army-officer-070724026.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/bolivia-deports-argentine-dirty-war-ex-army-officer-070724026.html)

**Venezuela to close Colombia border each night**

Venezuela says it will close its border with Colombia at night from Monday, to try to stop large-scale smuggling of petrol and food. The government says that tonnes of goods - produced in Venezuela and heavily subsidised - are sold in Colombia at much higher prices. The shortage of many staples in Venezuela's western border area this year led to anti-government protests. The border closure was agreed with the Colombian government. President Nicolas Maduro discussed the measures with his Colombian counterpart, Juan Manuel Santos, at a summit on 1 August. The 2,200km-long (1,360 miles) border will be closed between 22:00 local time and 05:00 every night.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28727307**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28727307)

**Colombia**

**Colombian rebels attack Tibu oil field, says government**

Colombian rebels have attacked an oil field in the north-east of the country, the state-owned company Ecopetrol says. It said the attack on the Tibu field near the Venezuelan border, had put the lives of workers and residents at risk. However no-one was injured. The Colombian military has not specified which group carried out the attack. The two main left-wing rebel groups in Colombia - the Farc and the ELN - are known to operate in the area. In recent weeks power stations, oil fields, pipelines and roads have been damaged in actions attributed to the guerrillas.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28727300**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28727300)

**Haiti**

**Haiti gang raids jail and frees inmates**

An armed gang has attacked a prison in Haiti freeing an unconfirmed number of inmates. The Croix-des-Bouquets jail held more than 800 prisoners before the Sunday morning attack. The action caused panic in the area around the capital Port-au-Prince where the prison is located. "We heard a lot of gunshots, and we saw people running in every direction," a nearby vendor told the AFP news agency.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28735367**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28735367)

MENA

# **Across MENA Thousands from Iraq Minority flee to Syria – UNICEF mention**

# With shocked, sunburnt faces, men, women and children in dirt-caked clothes limped into a camp for displaced Iraqis, finding safety after harsh days of hiding on a blazing mountaintop after fleeing from the extremist Islamic State group. Children who died of thirst were left behind; some exhausted mothers abandoned living babies, as thousands of Yazidis trekked across a rocky mountain chain in temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), crossing into neighboring Syria, and then looping back into Iraq to reach safety at the Bajid Kandala camp. At least 56 children died in the mountains, Juliette Touma of UNICEF estimated.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thousands-iraq-minority-flee-syria-24913990**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thousands-iraq-minority-flee-syria-24913990)

**Egypt**

**Islamist protester killed in clashes**

An Islamist protester was killed during a clash on 8 August with Egyptian police who arrested 40 demonstrators, the interior ministry said. The ministry accused the protesters, supporters of deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, of confronting civilian opponents during a march and then firing birdshot and throwing petrol bombs at policemen, wounding an officer. Members of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood movement and their allies have held near daily protests since his overthrow by the military in July 2013, despite a deadly crackdown on the group. At least 1,400 activists, mostly Islamists, have been killed in street clashes and hundreds sentenced to death, although none of the sentences has been carried out so far.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-08/266526-islamist-protester-killed-in-egypt-clashes.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-08/266526-islamist-protester-killed-in-egypt-clashes.ashx)

**Egypt dissolves Brotherhood's political wing**

An Egyptian court has ordered the dissolution of the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), the political wing of the already banned Muslim Brotherhood movement. The Supreme Administrative Court, in its ruling on Saturday, ordered "the dissolution of the Freedom and Justice Party because it broke the law regarding political parties". "The party and the Muslim Brotherhood are the same thing" and "its members have committed deeds of violence and acts of terror against the nation", state news agency MENA quoted the prosecution case as stating. According to media reports, the decision is final and not open to appeal.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/egypt-muslim-brotherhood-political-wing-201489104053319425.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/egypt-muslim-brotherhood-political-wing-201489104053319425.html)

**Iraq**

**Yazidi refugees need urgent help, UN warns**

Emergency aid drops by the US are helping refugees trapped by Islamist militants in northern Iraq, but more must be done, a UN official has warned. About 50,000 members of the Yazidi religious sect are surrounded by the Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq. President Obama has authorised air strikes on the militants but says he will not send US troops back to Iraq. The Sunni Muslim group, formerly known as Isis, now has control of large swathes of Iraq and Syria. In June, IS took control of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul and advanced south towards Baghdad. Its fighters seized Qaraqosh, Iraq's biggest Christian town, earlier this week.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28702842**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28702842)

**US steps up air strikes on IS militants**

The US has launched two additional air strikes against militants from the Islamic State (IS) group in northern Iraq, the Pentagon has said. US drones and Navy fighter jets attacked targets near the Kurdish city of Irbil - a similar location to the first strike earlier on 8 August. The Sunni Muslim group IS has taken control of swathes of Iraq and Syria. Tens of thousands of people from minority groups have fled their homes due to the militants' advance.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28715142**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28715142)

**ISIS militants kill hundreds of Yazidis in Iraq, bury some alive**

Militants belonging to the Islamic State or Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) have killed at least 500 members of Iraq’s Yazidi ethnic minority, burying some of their victims alive in a mass grave, Iraq’s human rights minister said Sunday. Iraq’s Human Rights Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said news of the killings had come from people who had escaped from Mount Sinjar in northern Iraq, the ancient home of the Yazidis and one of the towns captured by the Sunni militants who view the community as “devil worshipers”.

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20140810-iraq-isis-militants-kill-yazidis-mass-grave-bury-alive/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20140810-iraq-isis-militants-kill-yazidis-mass-grave-bury-alive/)

**Lebanon**

# **Lebanese villagers repel fighters who crossed from Syria -Lebanese sources**

Fighters identified as Islamist militants crossed into Lebanon from [Syria](http://www.reuters.com/places/syria?lc=int_mb_1001) on Saturday, triggering an exchange of fire with Lebanese villagers who forced them back across the border, Lebanese security sources and a villager said. The gun battle near the village of Kfar Qouq followed a battle between gunmen and Syrian security forces on the other side of frontier, the sources said. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/us-lebanon-security-battle-idUSKBN0G90HP20140809**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/us-lebanon-security-battle-idUSKBN0G90HP20140809)

**Libya**

**Heavy shelling resumes in Libyan capital Tripoli**

Heavy shelling resumed in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Sunday after three days of relative calm following more than a month of street fighting between rival armed factions battling for control of the city's airport. The North African OPEC oil producer is facing the worst violence since the 2011 war that toppled Muammar Gaddafi, with more than 200 people killed. Many Western embassies and international companies have evacuated staff members. Southern Tripoli was covered by black plumes of smoke, with artillery and rockets hitting areas around the international airport, where two rival brigades of ex-rebels have established front lines. There were no immediate reports of casualties from the new exchanges. But the health ministry said it cannot reach hospitals because of power failures and gasoline shortages in Tripoli.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL6N0QG0Y420140810**](http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL6N0QG0Y420140810)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Israeli negotiators arrives in Cairo as Gaza truce holds**

## Israeli negotiators arrived in Cairo on Monday to meet with Egyptian mediators who are holding talks on ending a month-old Gaza war between Israel and Palestinian militants, sources at the airport and the foreign ministry said. Israel and Hamas agreed on 10 August to a [new 72-hour ceasefire](http://www.france24.com/en/20140810-israel-hamas-accept-new-72-hour-gaza-ceasefire) to give the talks a chance to proceed after a ceasefire expired on Friday without a deal being reached.

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20140811-israeli-negotiators-arrives-cairo-gaza-truce-holds-ceasefire-talks-hamas/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20140811-israeli-negotiators-arrives-cairo-gaza-truce-holds-ceasefire-talks-hamas/)

**Israel presses deadly Gaza strikes, rockets hit Israel**

Israeli warplanes carried out 30 air strikes over Gaza on 9 August, killing five Palestinians, as militants fired six rockets into Israel, leaving international mediators scrambling to rescue ceasefire talks.  The Palestinian interior ministry said Israeli jets launched 21 strikes after midnight, destroying three mosques, one in the Zeitoun area, one in Jabaliya in the north and Nuseirat in the middle of the enclave. At least two of the mosques were considered close to Hamas. Gaza emergency services spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said two men were killed in a strike that "targeted a motorbike in the Al-Maghazi camp" and that the bodies of three other men were pulled from the rubble "of the Al-Qassam mosque" in the Nuseirat camp.

**AFP -** [**http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/425837/deadly-gaza-conflict-reignites-as-egypt-urges-new-truce**](http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/425837/deadly-gaza-conflict-reignites-as-egypt-urges-new-truce)

**Senior Hamas official is killed in air offensive**

Israel launched more than 50 air attacks in Gaza on 9 August, killing five Palestinians including a senior Hamas member as the conflict entered a second month, defying international efforts to revive a ceasefire. Israeli air strikes hit houses, mosques, warehouses and training sites. Three bodies were found under the ruins of the Al Qassam mosque in Gaza, including that of senior Hamas official Moaaz Zaid. The violence seemed to delay any progress in talks brokered by Egypt aimed at securing a permanent truce. Israel had no plans to send negotiators back to Cairo "as long as the shooting goes on", an Israeli official said.

**Daily News -** [**http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=383615**](http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=383615)

**Syria**

**Syria's Assad reappoints Halaqi as PM - state media**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has reappointed Wael al-Halaqi as prime minister, state media reported on Sunday. Assad was sworn in for a new term as president last month, requiring the formation of a new government. Halaqi was appointed in 2012 after his predecessor, Riad Hijab, fled Syria to join the opposition. State media reported that Assad had issued a decree requiring Halaqi to form the new government. Halaqi, who wields little power, survived a bomb attack on his convoy in Damascus in 2013.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL6N0QG0GP20140810**](http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL6N0QG0GP20140810)

**12 dead, wounded Syrian baby saved from mother's womb**

Syrian regime air raids killed 12 people on 10 August and wounded 23, including a mother and a baby boy removed from her womb, according to a monitoring group and amateur video. The video, broadcast by militants in the city of Raqa in northeastern Syria and whose authenticity could not be verified, shows a frail infant being resuscitated with a respiratory mask on his face and blood-soaked cotton by his side. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group also reported that the infant had been removed from his mother's womb, and said both mother and child survived the ordeal.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/142655-12-dead-wounded-syrian-baby-saved-from-mother-s-womb**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/142655-12-dead-wounded-syrian-baby-saved-from-mother-s-womb)

**Tunisia**

**Authorities to call up reservists to secure polls**

Tunisia on 8 August announced plans to call on army reservists to secure upcoming elections and said it will shut down Internet sites suspected of links to "terrorism". PM Mehdi Jomaa has authorised finance "to call up army reservists in order to contribute to securing upcoming elections", a government statement said. After months of political wrangling, Tunisia's parliament last month approved 26 October as the date for legislative polls and 23 November for a first round of a presidential election. A government spokesman was unable to say how many reservists would be called up, or what tasks the army would undertake to ensure that the elections are trouble-free. On Thursday the interior ministry said it had dismantled five "terrorist" groups and arrested 21 suspects who were plotting attacks.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/108031/World/Region/Tunisia-to-call-up-reservists-to-secure-polls.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/108031/World/Region/Tunisia-to-call-up-reservists-to-secure-polls.aspx)

**Tunisia coastguard rescues 90 illegals after breakdown**

Tunisian coastguards on Saturday intercepted 90 African migrants whose makeshift boat heading from Libya for the Italian island of Lampedusa broke down off Zarzis, the Red Crescent said. "At 0500 GMT the Tunisian coastguard rescued 90 African illegal migrants from a makeshift vessel after it broke down off Zarzis" in southern Tunisia, Red Crescent official Mongi Slim told Agence France Presse. The illegal migrants, who included four women and a child, two days ago left the Libyan port of Zwara some 60 kilometers (40 miles) from the border with Tunisia, bound for Italy. Slim said those rescued were 31 Sudanese, 19 Somalis, 18 Eritreans, 10 Nigerians, 6 Moroccans and 6 Chadians.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/142543-tunisia-coastguard-rescues-90-illegals-after-breakdown**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/142543-tunisia-coastguard-rescues-90-illegals-after-breakdown)

**Yemen**

**Yemeni fighter jets bomb al-Qaida hideouts, kill 4 militants**

Yemeni fighter aircraft on Sunday bombed hideouts of suspected al-Qaida militants in southeastern province of Hadramout, killing four terrorists, a military official told Xinhua. The military official said the air strikes were conducted after intelligence reports that several of al-Qaida militants were hiding in the Hadramout valley. Four gunmen were killed and some others injured in the air bombing. An intelligence officer said that "scores of the al-Qaida militants from other regions have moved to the valleys of Hadramout where they are attempting to take control of some areas and make plans for terrorist attacks in the country."

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article\_xinhua.aspx?id=234574**](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=234574)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**4 Afghan civilians killed in Kabul suicide bombing targeting NATO convoy in the capital**

An Afghan official says that four civilians have been killed in a suicide bombing targeting a NATO convoy moving through the capital, Kabul. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Hashmat Stanikzai, a spokesman for Kabul's police chief, said the suicide car bomber targeted the convoy Sunday on a main road in western Kabul. He says the blast killed four civilians and wounded 20. NATO had no immediate comment on the attack. Taliban spokesman Zabihalluh Mujahid claimed the bombing. The Taliban has promised to step up attacks against Afghan security forces in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw by the end of the year.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/08/10/4-afghan-civilians-killed-in-kabul-suicide-bombing-targeting-nato-convoy-in/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/08/10/4-afghan-civilians-killed-in-kabul-suicide-bombing-targeting-nato-convoy-in/)

**India**

**14 Maoist rebels killed in eastern India**

Fourteen Maoist insurgents were killed Saturday in a pre-dawn gun battle between two rebel groups in eastern India, police said. It was the latest clash between factions of the ultra-leftist group. "We strongly feel that it was a revenge attack to prove supremacy," Anurag Gupta, a senior officer of Jharkhand police, told AFP. Police said Maoists gunned down members of a rival group in Palamu district of the mineral rich state of Jharkhand. The police said the rebel group behind the killings left pamphlets at the site of killings. Separatist and Maoist insurgencies affect large swathes of India's northeast, northwest and central regions.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Regional/2014/08/09/14-Maoist-rebels-killed-in-eastern-India-police/**](http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Regional/2014/08/09/14-Maoist-rebels-killed-in-eastern-India-police/)

**Pakistan**

**Four dead as Tahir ul-Qadri supporters clash with police**

Four people died and dozens were injured in [Pakistan](http://www.theguardian.com/world/pakistan) on 9 August following clashes between authorities and supporters of an exiled anti-government cleric. The violence comes ahead of a large rally planned for Sunday by Tahir ul-Qadri in Lahore on Sunday. The event is intended to [protest](http://www.theguardian.com/world/protest) against the death of 14 of his supporters at a similar rally in June. However, the activist cleric has also claimed that the government was corrupt and has called for Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, to be ousted.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/09/pakistan-qadri-clashes-four-protesters-dead**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/09/pakistan-qadri-clashes-four-protesters-dead)

**6 police officers abducted in Pakistan clashes**

Authorities in Pakistan say six police officers have been abducted and two people killed in clashes between supporters of an anti-government cleric and security forces. The fighting began Friday in Pakistan's Punjab province. Provincial law minister Rana Mashood said fighting continued Saturday as supporters of cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri abducted six policemen in Punjab's capital, Lahore. Security forces have blocked roads to Lahore and the site of a planned protest Sunday by supporters of Qadri to protest the killing of 14 people in June in similar clashes. Mashood says police have arrested 500 suspected supporters of Qadri and recovered weapons and batons.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/6-police-officers-abducted-pakistan-clashes-081229665.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/6-police-officers-abducted-pakistan-clashes-081229665.html)

**Pakistan cleric announces march to topple government**

A populist Pakistani cleric on Sunday announced a march on Islamabad to overthrow the government, hours after being charged with murder for the death of a policeman injured in clashes with his supporters. Tahir-ul-Qadri said he will take to the streets on the same day that opposition leader Imran Khan will hold a rally in the capital aiming to force the government to step down and hold a fresh election. Both protest rallies will be held on Thursday when Pakistan celebrates its independence day.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/pakistan-cleric-announces-march-to-topple-government-573842?curl=1407699797**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/pakistan-cleric-announces-march-to-topple-government-573842?curl=1407699797)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Ebola virus: Guinea shuts Liberia and S Leone borders**

Guinea has closed its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone to contain the spread of Ebola, which has killed 959 people in the three countries. The latest outbreak is thought to have begun in Guinea, but Liberia and Sierra Leone are currently facing the highest frequency of new cases. The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday the spread of the virus was a global health emergency. The Ebola virus is transmitted between humans through bodily fluids. Animals such as fruit bats carry the virus, which can be transmitted to humans through contact with blood or consumption of bushmeat.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28723977**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28723977)

**CAR**

**Militia fighters clash in Bangui as thousands march for peace**

Rival vigilante militias in the Central African Republic clashed with heavy weapons overnight in the capital Bangui, residents said on Saturday. The gunfire had subsided by midday, but the situation remained tense in a northern suburb of Bangui, where the fighting took place. It is the anti-balaka, they do not leave us alone," one resident fleeing the clashes in the Boy-Rabe neighbourhood told AFP, referring to the mainly Christian vigilante groups.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/militia-fighters-clash-bangui-thousands-march-peace-183637463.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/militia-fighters-clash-bangui-thousands-march-peace-183637463.html)

**CAR president appoints Muslim as new prime minister**

The president of the Central African Republic has named a Muslim as the country's new prime minister, an official said Sunday, as part of an effort to create a more inclusive government after more than a year of sectarian violence. Mahamat Kamoun, previously a special advisor to President Catherine Samba-Panza, a Christian, will lead a transitional government after being nominated by presidential decree. The appointment was announced on state-owned radio by a spokesman for the presidency.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/central-africa-republic-appoints-muslim-prime-minister-151133671.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/central-africa-republic-appoints-muslim-prime-minister-151133671.html)

**Mali**

**France bombs islamists in north Mali**

French forces have bombed Islamist militant positions in northern Mali. Four or five bombs were dropped in the Esssakane region, west of the city of Timbuktu on Sunday morning, the BBC's Alex Duval Smith in Mali reports. The UN has said al-Qaeda militants were active in the area. Last month Timbuktu airport came under rocket attack. France intervened in Mali in January last year to try to drive out al-Qaeda-linked groups, which had taken over the north of the country.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28731638**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28731638)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria declares state of emergency over Ebola**

Nigeria's president on Friday declared a national state of emergency over the deadly Ebola virus which has killed around 1,000 people, mostly in West Africa. President Goodluck Jonathan said that the relevant agencies must ensure that all possible steps are taken “to effectively contain the threat of the Ebola virus in line with international protocols and best practices.” Nigeria's health ministry says two patients in Africa's most populous nation have died of the disease, and there are seven other confirmed cases. Jonathan also approved the release of 1.9 billion naira (8.7 million euros) to contain the disease through an intervention plan. He also asked schools to consider extending the current school holiday until there is a national reassessment of the level of threat Ebola poses in Nigeria and called on the population to avoid large gatherings in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20140808-nigeria-declares-state-emergency-over-ebola/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20140808-nigeria-declares-state-emergency-over-ebola/)

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