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CEE/CIS

**Bulgaria**

**President appoints caretaker government until elections**

Bulgaria moved Tuesday to quell a deep political crisis by appointing a law professor as interim prime minister until national elections in October. Georgi Bliznashki will lead a caretaker government whose main task will be to restore stability in a nation shaken by month long anti-government protests and a banking debacle that fueled mistrust in public institutions. President Rosen Plevneliev, who announced the appointment, said he will dissolve the legislature on Wednesday and set elections for 5 October.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bulgaria-appoints-caretaker-govt-october-24843342**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bulgaria-appoints-caretaker-govt-october-24843342)

**Russia**

**Russian troop increase at Ukraine border raises concerns**A new build-up of Russian troops along the Ukraine border raised concerns that Moscow might be contemplating another intervention like the one that annexed Crimea earlier this year. According to a NATO official, Russia now has about 20,000 troops stationed "in an area along the entire border with eastern Ukraine." The buildup nearly doubled the troop deployment in the last week by adding 8,000 more forces to 12,000 already there, the official said. In addition, Russia's Defense Ministry is staging a week of military exercises involving air troops and anti-missile defense forces. The exercises are taking place in Russia's southern Astrakhan region, roughly 500 miles from the border with Ukraine.  
**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/05/world/europe/ukraine-crisis/**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/05/world/europe/ukraine-crisis/)

**Ukraine**

**Clashes kill two people in Donetsk as UN warns of mass exodus**

At least two civilians were killed in heavy clashes on the outskirts of the main rebel-held bastion of Donetsk in east Ukraine on 5 August, as the UN warned of a "massive exodus and destruction" if fighting intensified. Powerful explosions rocked the western Petrovksy suburb of the sprawling million-strong city, the local administration said, as government forces pushed on with an offensive to oust insurgents. Earlier, dozens of cars packed with terrified residents could be seen fleeing the industrial hub via a perilous humanitarian corridor that ran close to the scene of the clashes. Ukraine's military called on insurgents in Donetsk, Lugansk and another frontline city, Gorlivka, to open corridors for several hours each day to allow civilians to escape. More than 1,150 people, mainly civilians, have died since the civil war erupted in mid-April.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-closes-rebel-stronghold-urges-civilians-flee-182319650.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-closes-rebel-stronghold-urges-civilians-flee-182319650.html)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28665050**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28665050)

**ICRC officially declares Ukraine civil war**

The International Committee of the Red Cross said that it considered Ukraine to be in a state of civil war, urging both sides to respect the laws of conflict as civilians bear the brunt. The formal classification means participants in the fighting between government forces and pro-Russian separatists in the east could eventually be prosecuted for war crimes in international courts.

**ICRC -** [**http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2014/07-23-ukraine-kiev-call-respect-ihl-repatriate-bodies-malaysian-airlines.htm**](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2014/07-23-ukraine-kiev-call-respect-ihl-repatriate-bodies-malaysian-airlines.htm)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Over 380,000 Japanese advised to evacuate due to Typhoon Halong**

The Japanese authorities have recommended 382,000 residents of the southeastern island of Shikoku to evacuate due to heavy rain, NHK channel reported. In particular, the evacuation advisory was issued for people from prefectures of Kochi, Ehime and Tokushima. More than 1,200 millimeters of rain has fallen in some part of Shikoku since the start of the torrential downpour. Typhoon Halong will hit the southern coast of Japan on 6 August, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) reported. **RIA -** [**http://en.ria.ru/world/20140805/191727706/Over-380000-Japanese-Advised-to-Evacuate-Due-to-Torrential-Rain.html**](http://en.ria.ru/world/20140805/191727706/Over-380000-Japanese-Advised-to-Evacuate-Due-to-Torrential-Rain.html)

**China**

**Earthquake toll nears 600 amid flood fears**Almost 600 people are now known to have died in the earthquake that hit Yunnan province on Sunday, officials say. The 6.1-magnitude quake struck a mountainous area, destroying thousands of houses and triggering landslides. A total of 589 people were killed and nine were missing, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs said. More than 2,400 people were injured, it said. The quake's epicentre was in Longtoushan Township in Ludian County, a region with steep hills and narrow roads. China has sent thousands of troops to the area to assist survivors and search debris for any trapped people.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-28659737#**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-28659737)

**Indonesia  
Prabowo claims "massive" fraud in presidential election**

Indonesia's losing presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto launched a last-gasp attempt to overturn the official election result on Wednesday, telling the nation's highest court last month's vote was tainted by "massive" fraud. The Constitutional Court is widely expected to rule against Prabowo and uphold the result of the election, won by Jakarta governor Joko Widodo in the closest presidential election in Indonesia's history. The court must deliver a verdict by 21 Aug., and that decision cannot be appealed. Hundreds of Prabowo's supporters protested outside the court as the hearing began, delaying traffic in central Jakarta. There were no reports of violence in Jakarta, with more than 20,000 police deployed around the capital.   
**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G60CV20140806**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G60CV20140806)

ESA

**Somalia**

**Government appeals for urgent aid amid drought**

Somalia's government begged for help Tuesday, warning the war-torn nation once again faced a hunger and drought catastrophe three years after famine killed more than a quarter of a million people. Last month the UN warned Somalia is sliding back into an acute hunger crisis, with parts of Mogadishu facing near famine-level shortages and aid organisations unable to meet the needs of some 350,000 displaced people there.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/war-torn-somalia-appeals-urgent-aid-amid-drought-130516853.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/war-torn-somalia-appeals-urgent-aid-amid-drought-130516853.html)

**South Sudan**

**6 aid workers targeted, killed**

A militia hunting down members of a specific ethnic group targeted and killed at least six South Sudanese aid workers over two days during a new bout of violence close to the South Sudan-Sudan border, the UN said Tuesday. Two of the victims were murdered in the town of Bunj on Tuesday while another three died in an ambush, the UN said. A sixth aid worker was killed Monday and a seventh is missing and presumed dead, the UN said. UNHCR, said the outbreak of violence the past 48 hours is compromising the security of the more than 100,000 Sudanese refugees who fled clashes in Sudan's Blue Nile state.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/violence-flares-south-sudan-peace-talks-24844414**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/violence-flares-south-sudan-peace-talks-24844414)

**NPA -** [**http://www.npaid.org/News/2014/Norwegian-People-s-Aid-staff-killed-in-South-Sudan**](http://www.npaid.org/News/2014/Norwegian-People-s-Aid-staff-killed-in-South-Sudan)

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/south-sudan-aid-worker-killed-unmiss/1971392.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/south-sudan-aid-worker-killed-unmiss/1971392.html)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**US to close 3 shelters as flow of migrant children wanes**

Three interim shelters that have housed thousands of unaccompanied children who have come to the US from Central America will close within weeks due to decreasing numbers of minors making the trip, officials said on Tuesday. More than 7,700 children have been sheltered in facilities on military bases in California, Texas and Oklahoma since they were opened in May and June, the Department of Health and Human Services said. In addition to the decline in children crossing the border, other measures have contributed to the ability to close the three interim shelters. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives late on Friday approved legislation that would provide $694 million in additional funding for border security and to care for children, though the measure has almost no chance of becoming law.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/u-close-three-shelters-flow-migrant-children-wanes-175930067.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/u-close-three-shelters-flow-migrant-children-wanes-175930067.html)

**Caribbean Chikungunya cases top 500,000**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says the number of new cases of the Chikungunya in the Caribbean increased by nearly 38,000 in a week with the Dominican Republic having the most cases. PAHO said that the total figure for the mosquito-borne disease had reached 513,393 cases compared with 473,523 cases a week earlier.

**PAHO -** [**http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\_topics&view=article&id=343&Itemid=40931**](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=article&id=343&Itemid=40931)

**Central America seeking joint response to drought, El Niño**

Central American authorities are analyzing options for dealing with severe drought and the El Niño phenomenon that are affecting the region's population and agricultural production. Agriculture ministers from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua are meeting to come up with a solution to deal with the drought. The idea is to compare experiences of different Central American countries in order to generate a regional solution. El Salvador and Nicaragua are reported to be the most affected by the drought with the loss of crops and livestock, particularly in Nicaragua.

**BN Americas -** [**http://www.bnamericas.com/news/waterandwaste/central-america-seeking-joint-response-to-drought-el-nino**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/waterandwaste/central-america-seeking-joint-response-to-drought-el-nino)

**Guatemala**

**Fire volcano rumbles back to life**

Guatemala's Fire volcano erupted on 5 August for the first time in nearly two years, causing panic in nearby villages and prompting aviation authorities to re-route air traffic. The volcano in the country's southwest spewed smoke and ash at the rate of three or four times per hour, officials said. Geologists said the volcano belched out huge columns of smoke measuring as high as 4,300 metres. The volcano, which is more than 3,700 metres high, is located between the departments of Chimaltenango, Escuintla and Sacatepequez, in south-west Guatemala.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/guatemalas-fire-volcano-rumbles-back-life-20140806**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/guatemalas-fire-volcano-rumbles-back-life-20140806)

**At least 40,000 families affected by drought**

Some 40,000 families have been affected by the drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon in Guatemala, the Agriculture, Ranching and Food Minister said Tuesday, citing preliminary figures. The lack of rain has damaged corn crops in some 28 cities in eight provinces located in the so-called Dry Corridor in the country’s east and north, the minister said. Although experts are still evaluating the situation in those regions, the National Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology Institute (Insivumeh) says it has not rained there since 9 July, the minister reported.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2345645&CategoryId=23558**](http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2345645&CategoryId=23558)

**Mexico**

**Authorities rescue 39 kidnapped Central American immigrants**

Local police and federal soldiers rescued 39 Central American immigrants at a residence in the state of Tamaulipas, state security authorities said in a statement on 5 August. More than half of the freed immigrants, or 19, were Honduran nationals, while 13 were from El Salvador and seven others from Guatemala. The group, including 16 minors and seven females, was found in a town of Altamira just north of the port city of Tampico. Last week security forces rescued 70 Central American migrants, including children, who were being held captive in a house also in the state of Tamaulipa.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/06/us-usa-mexico-immigration-idUSKBN0G603T20140806**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/06/us-usa-mexico-immigration-idUSKBN0G603T20140806)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/02/us-mexico-migrants-idUSKBN0G202B20140802**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/02/us-mexico-migrants-idUSKBN0G202B20140802)

MENA

**Egypt**

**At least nine killed in shootout in coastal town**

At least five policemen and four alleged smugglers were killed on 5 August in a shootout near a northern Egyptian town after security forces tried to stop a vehicle suspected of carrying weapons and explosives, security sources said. The attack happened in the province of Marsa Matrouh, about 175km west of Alexandria. Security officials say militants operating from Libya are trying to forge ties with militants in the Sinai. They say militants pay smugglers to transport weapons, including machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, to comrades in Egypt. The security sources said the smugglers had opened fire on police after being stopped at a checkpoint, and that the security forces had returned fire. They said the death toll could still rise.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/gunmen-kill-five-egyptian-police\_952777.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/gunmen-kill-five-egyptian-police_952777.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/uk-egypt-security-idUKKBN0G528V20140805**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/uk-egypt-security-idUKKBN0G528V20140805)

**Iraq**

**Kurds, Islamic State clash near Kurdish regional capital**Kurdish forces attacked Islamic State fighters just 40km southwest of the Kurdish regional capital of Erbil in northern Iraq, a senior Kurdish official told Reuters on Wednesday. "We have changed our tactics from being defensive to being offensive. Now we are clashing with the Islamic State in Makhmur," said Jabbar Yawar, secretary-general of the ministry of the Kurdish peshmerga fighters.   
**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G60U320140806**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G60U320140806)

**UNHCR distributes aid to thousands fleeing attacks in Ninewa**

UNHCR has started distributing emergency aid to thousands of people displaced by the latest outbreak of violence in northern Iraq's Ninewa governorate. Officials in the Iraq's Kurdistan region say some 30,000 people (6,600 families) have fled the fighting that erupted at the weekend between ethnic Kurdish forces and armed opposition groups, who reportedly captured three communities. UNHCR staff have also noticed a large number of people from ethnic minority groups among the latest exodus, including Yazidis, Shabak, Armenians and Shia Turkmen as well as Christians and some Shia Arabs. Iraq's Kurdistan region is already home to more than 300,000 IDPs and 220,000 Syrian refugees.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/53e0f87f9.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/53e0f87f9.html)

**UNSC condemns IS attacks**

The UN Security Council has condemned attacks by Islamic State fighters in Iraq and warned that those responsible for the violence could face trial for crimes against humanity. The statement from the UN Security Council was the second strong condemnation over the past two weeks of the IS offensive that saw militants seize control of the city of Mosul in June. The Council warned that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) posed a threat not only to Iraq and Syria but to 'regional peace, security and stability. The British ambassador singled out the Yazidi minority, a community whose faith is rooted in Zoroastrianism, and who have been targeted by jihadists as 'devil worshippers'. The Yazidis and other minorities have 'lived for hundreds of years in Sinjar and elsewhere in Nenewa province', he said, adding that the Council condemned 'in the strongest terms' the systematic persecution of these communities.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/un-security-council/1298678.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/un-security-council/1298678.html)

**Lebanon**

**Ceasefire agreed in border town**

A 24-hour truce has reportedly been agreed between the Lebanese army and militants to halt fighting in a town on the Syrian border. It is the first large-scale incursion by Syrian militants into Lebanon. The truce, which came into force at 7pm, was meant to allow time to evacuate the wounded and to negotiate on the release of captured soldiers and security personnel, a senior Lebanese security official reported. The source said the ceasefire was broken briefly late in the evening when an army position came under fire, but the truce held nonetheless. The clashes have so far killed 17 soldiers and wounded dozens more. At least 22 soldiers and an unknown number of policemen have been declared missing; it's considered possible that the militants are holding some or all of them hostage. **DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/ceasefire-agreed-in-lebanese-border-town-source/a-17833504**](http://www.dw.de/ceasefire-agreed-in-lebanese-border-town-source/a-17833504)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/08/06/Lebanon-army-and-militants-clash-as-ceasefire-collapses/**](http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/08/06/Lebanon-army-and-militants-clash-as-ceasefire-collapses/)

**Libya**

**UN agency ‘deeply concerned’ about safety of refugees**As violence escalates in Libya, the United Nations said it was deeply concerned for the safety of thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers who are currently stranded in areas heavily damaged by the continuous fighting. “In Tripoli alone, more than 150 people from Eritrea, Somalia and other countries have phoned our protection hotline seeking help with medicines or a safer place to stay,” UNHCR spokesperson Ariane Rummery told journalists in Geneva. “We are also receiving calls from many of the mainly Syrian and Palestinian asylum-seekers and refugees in Benghazi who are in dire need of assistance,” she said, adding that altogether, almost 37,000 people are registered with UNHCR in Tripoli and Benghazi. She said the security situation is rapidly deteriorating and many see leaving Libya as their only option.   
**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48420#.U-H4imjD\_cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48420#.U-H4imjD_cs)

**State Palestine/Israel**

**Scores of children killed, 2,500 injured in Israeli offensive - UNICEF**

Nearly 400 Palestinian children were killed and 2,500 were wounded in the 29-day Israeli offensive on the Gaza strip, and another 370,000 are in need of urgent psychological care, UNICEF reported on Tuesday. Pernille Ironside (head of UNICEF field office in Gaza) warned of an imminent outbreak of contagious diseases and diarrhea - potentially deadly for children under five - in Gaza, where power has been knocked down and sanitation and potable water are inexistent. UNICEF estimates that 370,000 children will need urgent psychological help to try to overcome the trauma they experienced. Ironside said 142 schools in Gaza, including 89 run by UNRWA, were damaged by the Israeli bombing, in addition to direct attacks against three UN schools. She also highlighted the absence of equipment and material to build new schools, due to the blockade Israel imposes on the Palestinian coastal enclave.

**EFE -** [**https://in.news.yahoo.com/nearly-400-children-killed-israels-offensive-gaza-unicef-135003254.html**](https://in.news.yahoo.com/nearly-400-children-killed-israels-offensive-gaza-unicef-135003254.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140805164455-vbrzy/?source=fiHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140805164455-vbrzy/?source=fiHeadlineStory)

**Gaza ceasefire holding on second day**A Gaza ceasefire was holding on Wednesday. Israel withdrew ground forces from the Gaza Strip on Tuesday morning and started a 72-hour ceasefire with Hamas mediated by Egypt as a first step towards negotiations on a more enduring end to the month-old war. Israel sent officials to join talks in Cairo to cement a longer-term deal during the course of the current truce. Hamas and Islamic Jihad also dispatched representatives from Gaza.   
**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/06/uk-mideast-gaza-idUKKBN0FV04D20140806**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/06/uk-mideast-gaza-idUKKBN0FV04D20140806)

**Sudan  
Sudanese security storms IDPs camp in South Darfur**A joint force from the security apparatus in South Darfur state on Tuesday morning has stormed Al-Salam camp for displaced persons, 15 km south east of the state's capital Nyala in search for fugitive offenders. Local authorities said the move comes within the framework of the emergency order imposed last month, in a bid to curb criminal activities carried out by armed gangs. The commissioner of Nyala locality, Abdel-Rahman Hussein Mohamed Gardoud, said that more than 10 offenders were arrested inside the camp as well as large quantities of illegal drugs, weapons, and ammunition.   
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51929**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51929)

**Syria**

**Air strikes in east of capital kill 64**

Air strikes by Syrian government forces in the eastern suburbs of the capital Damascus killed at least 64 people at the weekend, a monitoring group said on Tuesday. Bombardments, gun battles and executions regularly kill over 150 people a day in Syria's three-year-old conflict, but the toll from the air strikes was especially high. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attacks occurred in the areas of Kafr Batna and Douma in the eastern outskirts of the city.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-05/266130-airstrikes-in-east-of-syrian-capital-kill-64.ashx#axzz39Ya41x3Q**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-05/266130-airstrikes-in-east-of-syrian-capital-kill-64.ashx#axzz39Ya41x3Q)

**Women, children held hostage by fighters for year: HRW**Syrian fighters have held 54 women and children hostage for an entire year, a rights group said Wednesday, urging they be freed and warning that holding civilians can amount to a war crime. New York-based Human Rights Watch said the group was captured in the coastal province of Latakia during an opposition offensive a year ago. Another group of 40 hostages was released in May as part of a deal that allowed Syrian opposition forces safe passage out of the besieged Old City of Homs. But the group of 54, which includes 34 children, was still being held, apparently "with the intention of compelling government actions, including exchanging the hostages for detainees in government custody," HRW said.   
**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/05/syria-women-children-held-hostage-year**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/05/syria-women-children-held-hostage-year)

**Tunisia**

**Authorities ask US for 12 helicopters to fight 'terrorism'**

Tunisia has asked the US for a dozen American-made Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopters so its forces can "fight terrorism," the country's president said Tuesday. Since its 2011 revolution, the country has seen the rise of a jihadist movement, with some 50 members of the military and police force killed in attacks linked to armed groups. Meanwhile, extremist group Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb recently claimed responsibility for attacks in Tunisia, notably an assault on the family home of the country's interior minister in May. President Moncef Marzouki also said Tunisia needed night vision and communications equipment, adding that the army was not properly trained and "has not got all the means it needs."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-asks-us-12-helicopters-fight-terrorism-203446308.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-asks-us-12-helicopters-fight-terrorism-203446308.html)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Taliban told to stop blocking polio teams – UNICEF mention**

The Taliban insurgency should stop preventing mobile polio vaccination teams from operating in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand province, Human Rights Watch said. Since as early as February 2014, the Taliban have prohibited the Afghan Public Health Ministry from deploying mobile vaccination teams in the province, increasing the vulnerability of children in the province to infection, death, or long-term disability. In a 7 July statement, the Taliban accused the mobile teams of unspecified “spying” activities. Mobile vaccination teams have operated in Afghanistan since before 2001, and up until recently the Taliban has allowed the vaccinations to proceed in areas under its control.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/04/afghanistan-taliban-should-stop-blocking-polio-teams**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/04/afghanistan-taliban-should-stop-blocking-polio-teams)

**India**

**East flood threat eases, 30,000 villagers told to go home**

About 30,000 evacuated villagers in eastern India began returning home on Tuesday after the threat of floods due to a landslide in neighbouring Nepal eased, but 100,000 remained in relief camps, government officials said. The landslide, triggered by heavy rains in Nepal's Sindhupalchowk district on Saturday, killed at least 33 people and created a mud dam blocking the Sunkoshi River, which flows into India as the Kosi River. Indian authorities, fearing a torrent of water as the Nepalese army tried to clear the landslide, evacuated more than 130,000 villagers in Bihar state over the weekend.

A senior disaster management official said the careful clearing of the landslide across the border had lessened the risk of flash floods and 30,000 evacuees were told to return home.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140805135450-23jqv/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140805135450-23jqv/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Nepal  
Authorities declare 156 dead, 123 missing in landslide as search for missing ends**Nepalese authorities said Wednesday 156 people died in a landslide Saturday in central Nepal that blocked a river and formed a 3km artificial lake that is still threatening to break through debris and flood settlements downstream, including in the Indian state Bihar. The landslide at Jure village in Sindhupalchowk about 60 km northeast of Kathmandu, occurred at 3am Saturday. It swept away three villages, including Jure, and completely blocked the Sunkoshi River for more than 12 hours after which water started overflowing from a section of the landslide debris where the Nepal Army had carried out controlled explosions Saturday.   
**Nepal News -** [**http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/37392-Death-toll-reaches-156,-as-123-missing-declared-dea**](http://www.nepalnews.com/index.php/news/37392-Death-toll-reaches-156,-as-123-missing-declared-dea)

**Pakistan**

**IDPs pose polio threat to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa children**

Unvaccinated displaced children from North Waziristan Agency could cause a polio outbreak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, WHO fears. About 160,000 unimmunized children have come to KP since the June start of Operation Zarb-e-Azb, the military counter-insurgency operation in North Waziristan. The unvaccinated children are the result of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)'s campaign against immunization in areas it controls or controlled, doctors say. KP children who either missed a vaccination or are too young to have been vaccinated could be at risk.

**Central Asia Online -** [**http://centralasiaonline.com/en\_GB/articles/caii/features/pakistan/main/2014/08/04/feature-01**](http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/features/pakistan/main/2014/08/04/feature-01)

**30 rebels killed in North Waziristan offensive**

Pakistan's military on Tuesday said it had bombed six rebel hideouts in a northwestern district where it has been carrying out an offensive since June, killing 30 suspected militants. The air strikes targeted hideouts in Dattakhel, Marsikhel and Kamsham areas of the North Waziristan where the military is fighting Pakistani Taliban and foreign militants. Residents from the district recently reported high numbers of civilian casualties, including women and children, in a similar strike. The fighting has displaced some 800,000 people into towns that border the tribal areas where they face testing conditions amid a lack of food rations and high rents. There have been fears that many top militants also fled, including fighters from the feared Haqqani network, which is blamed for numerous bloody attacks in Afghanistan.

**AFP -** [**http://www.afp.com/en/news/30-killed-pakistans-anti-militant-offensive**](http://www.afp.com/en/news/30-killed-pakistans-anti-militant-offensive)

**Sri Lanka**

**US slams Sri Lanka over intimidation of war victims**

The US led Western criticism of Sri Lanka on Tuesday after pro-government activists broke up a meeting of US diplomats and ethnic Tamils who lost loved ones in the island's separatist war. The US embassy said activists led by Buddhist monks stormed the meeting in a Catholic Church compound in Colombo on Monday and "behaved threateningly towards the families". The embassy said police appeared to support the mob, which halted the meeting of foreign diplomats, including from the US, and families whose relatives went missing during the conflict that ended in 2009. "The United States strongly urges the government of Sri Lanka to enforce the rule of law and permit all citizens to exercise their most basic human rights, including freedom of speech," the embassy said in a statement.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/us-slams-sri-lanka-over-intimidation-of-war-victims\_952778.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/us-slams-sri-lanka-over-intimidation-of-war-victims_952778.html)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Boko Haram has forced 650,000 Nigerians from homes: UN**

Attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria's crisis-hit northeast have forced nearly 650,000 people from their homes, OCHA said Tuesday, an increase of nearly 200,000 since May. UNHCR for its part reported that about 1,000 people trying to escape the fighting had fled to an uninhabited island on Lake Chad across Nigeria's northeastern border. "The group, mainly women and children, is in urgent need of food, water, shelter and medical care," UNHCR said. They reached the remote island of Choua on Thursday after fleeing a Boko Haram attack in their hometown of Kolikolia, according to UNHCR.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48419#.U-Fp-mjD\_cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48419#.U-Fp-mjD_cs)

**WHO urged to allow experimental drugs in "dire" Ebola outbreak**

Three of the world's leading Ebola specialists called on Tuesday for experimental drugs and vaccines to be offered to people in West Africa, where a vast outbreak of the deadly disease is raging in three countries. Noting that American aid workers who contracted the disease in Liberia were given an unapproved medicine before being evacuated back to the US, the specialists - including Peter Piot, who co-discovered Ebola in 1976 - said Africans affected by the same outbreak should get the same chance. Piot, David Heymann and Jeremy Farrar, all influential infectious disease professors and respectively directors of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Chatham House Centre on Global Health Security, and the Wellcome Trust, said there were several antiviral drugs, monoclonal antibodies and vaccines under study for possible use against Ebola.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140805195933-tm6nb/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140805195933-tm6nb/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Ebola mortality rate expected to rise as outbreak runs its deadly course**

The death rate so far in the world's worst outbreak of Ebola is not as extreme as recorded in the past, but experts expect it to prove no less virulent in the end, once more victims succumb and the grim data is tallied up. Latest figures from WHO record 1,603 cases of Ebola in the West African outbreak and 887 deaths - giving a death rate of just over 55%. That is well below the 78.5% average death rate over 14 past outbreaks of the same virus - called the "Zaire strain" after the former name of the DRC where it was first detected in 1976.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/health-ebola-mortality-idINL6N0QB2SN20140805**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/health-ebola-mortality-idINL6N0QB2SN20140805)

**CAR**

**Government steps down as violence erupts despite peace deal**

The government of CAR resigned on Tuesday as part of a peace deal reached last month with Christian and Muslim rebel factions, interim president Catherine Samba-Panza said. The deal, signed in Brazzaville after weeks of talks, is the first part of a wider peace agreement to end violence in which thousands have died and nearly a quarter of the population have been driven from their homes since a March 2013 coup. Despite the peace accord, tensions remain high in the country where several Seleka militiamen were killed on Tuesday in a clash with French peacekeepers in the north. Last week, at least 22 died in fighting between the ex-rebel Seleka and mainly-Christian anti-balaka fighters.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/cafrica-govt-steps-down-violence-erupts-despite-peace-192000978.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/cafrica-govt-steps-down-violence-erupts-despite-peace-192000978.html)

**Ceasefire in tatters after clashes**

CAR's Muslim rebels and Christian militia accused each other on Tuesday of violating a ceasefire deal signed last month, following days of clashes in the country's remote north. "The agreement was broken right after it was signed," said Seleka's Ahmat Nedjad, saying Muslims had been attacked in the towns of Dekoa, Bodo and Batangafo in late July. A local radio station said two soldiers for MISCA had been killed in the Batangafo clashes. Brice Emotion Namsio, a spokesman for the anti-balaka, denied they were responsible for the violence, saying clear orders were given to militia commanders before the Brazzaville deal to cease their attacks.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/us-centralafrica-violence-idUSKBN0G527D20140805**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/us-centralafrica-violence-idUSKBN0G527D20140805)

**DR Congo**

**Authorities arrest opposition leader**

Security forces in the DR Congo arrested a senior opposition legislator (The general secretary of the Union for the Congolese Nation party), a day after he took part in a rally that was held to oppose extension of presidential terms limits, his party said. Thousands of people demonstrated in Kinshasa to protest over suspicions that the rulers of the country intend to amend the constitution and enable the President to stay in power beyond 2016, when he is due to step down after two five-year elected terms.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/dr-congo-arrests-opposition-leader-201485151852176513.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/dr-congo-arrests-opposition-leader-201485151852176513.html)

**Liberia**

**Ebola death toll rises to 268, as bodies lie abandoned**

Liberia's Ebola death toll was rising dramatically, the Health Ministry said Tuesday, while abandoned bodies were lining streets across the country. A total of 268 people had died of the virus as of 2 August; among the dead were 37 health workers, with 2,497 people currently suspected to be infected with Ebola.

**DPA -** [**http://www.lse.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=7nfyi4y0&headline=Liberias\_Ebola\_Death\_Toll\_Rises\_To\_268**](http://www.lse.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=7nfyi4y0&headline=Liberias_Ebola_Death_Toll_Rises_To_268)

**Nigeria**

**Lagos has 8 suspected Ebola cases, 1 confirmed**

Lagos has eight suspected cases of Ebola, all in people who came into contact with Nigeria's first victim who died last month, the health commissioner said on Tuesday, with one case confirmed. Authorities have been monitoring anyone who came into close contact with Patrick Sawyer, a Liberia and US citizen who died of Ebola in Lagos last month shortly after arriving at the airport. The second confirmed case was a doctor who looked after him. Health Commissioner Jide Idris also said a further six people who had made contact with Sawyer had been quarantined but were not showing symptoms.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/lagos-8-suspected-ebola-cases-1-confirmed-nigerian-134108438.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/lagos-8-suspected-ebola-cases-1-confirmed-nigerian-134108438.html)

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