hajj pilgrimage.

spread around the globe.

City

No MERS alert

WHO decides not to raise alarm

The World Health Organization on Wednesday held off

from calling for travel restrictions related to the MERS virus

striking Saudi Arabia as the kingdom braces for the Muslim

agency's emergency committee -- whose rarity underlined

global concerns about MERS -- the WHO said there was

potential impact of the annual hajj in October, when mil-

lions of people will head to Islam's two holiest sites of

Mecca and Medina, providing a possible means for MERS to

the information now available, and using a risk-assessment

approach, the conditions for a public health emergency of

international concern have not at present been met," it said.

remain vigilant, monitoring unusual respiratory infection

nations boost surveillance and laboratory capacity and

inform the public about how to reduce the risks of infec-

restrictions, its health security chief Keiji Fukuda said it was

patterns, notably if patients have been to the Middle East.

The WHO's stance so far has been that countries should

However, the committee also said the WHO should help

While the WHO did not call for outright travel and trade

"It is the unanimous decision of the committee that, with

In a statement following a session of the UN health

The meeting came amid mounting concern over the

ahead of hajj

currently no reason to step up its level of alert.

India SC orders curbs on acid sales AFP, New Delhi

India's top court yesterday ruled that authorities must regulate the sale of acid used in a spate of attacks on women by jilted boyfriends and others.

In an interim judgement, the court said each victim should be paid 300,000 rupees as well as have medical costs covered, pending a final ruling on the level of compensation.

Earlier this month, the same court had rebuked the central government for failing to formulate a policy to reduce the number of acid attacks on women.

US heat wave kills 6

CNN ONLINE

Heat in the Northeast USA has taken at least six lives, health officials said yesterday. Five have died in Maryland over the course of the summer of heat-related causes; one man died last week in New York.

A heat wave has been hanging over the northeast and the Midwest since early this week, driving up the heat index over 100 degrees in many places.

Militants kill cop in Sinai

Gunmen shot dead a policeman on Wednesday in El-Arish, in Egypt's restive Sinai peninsula, medical sources said.

The militants opened fire on the police conscript who was standing outside a police station in north Sinai's main town, hitting him in the neck before fleeing in their vehicle.

This latest deadly attack in the increasingly lawless region, home to Egypt's luxury Red Sea resorts, came as Egyptian troops massed for an offensive against Islamist militants there.

S Sudan fighting affects 100,000

AFP, Juba

Over 100,000 South Sudanese civilians are cut off from aid in the eastern state of Jonglei amid fierce fighting between rival ethnic groups, aid agencies and the United Nations warned Wednesday.

Thousands of heavily armed gunmen from rival ethnic groups have been fighting for almost two weeks in the impoverished region, while government troops and UN peacekeepers have said their forces are unable to intervene as they would be overwhelmed.

Guinea violence death toll hits 50

AFP, Conakry

The bodies of 54 people burned alive or hacked to death in ethnic clashes in the west African state of Guinea have been identified, a medic said on Wednesday, indicating that the death toll would continue to rise.

The violence broke out in the southern forest region early Monday when petrol station guards from the Guerze tribe in the town of Koule beat to death an ethnic Konianke youth they had accused of stealing.

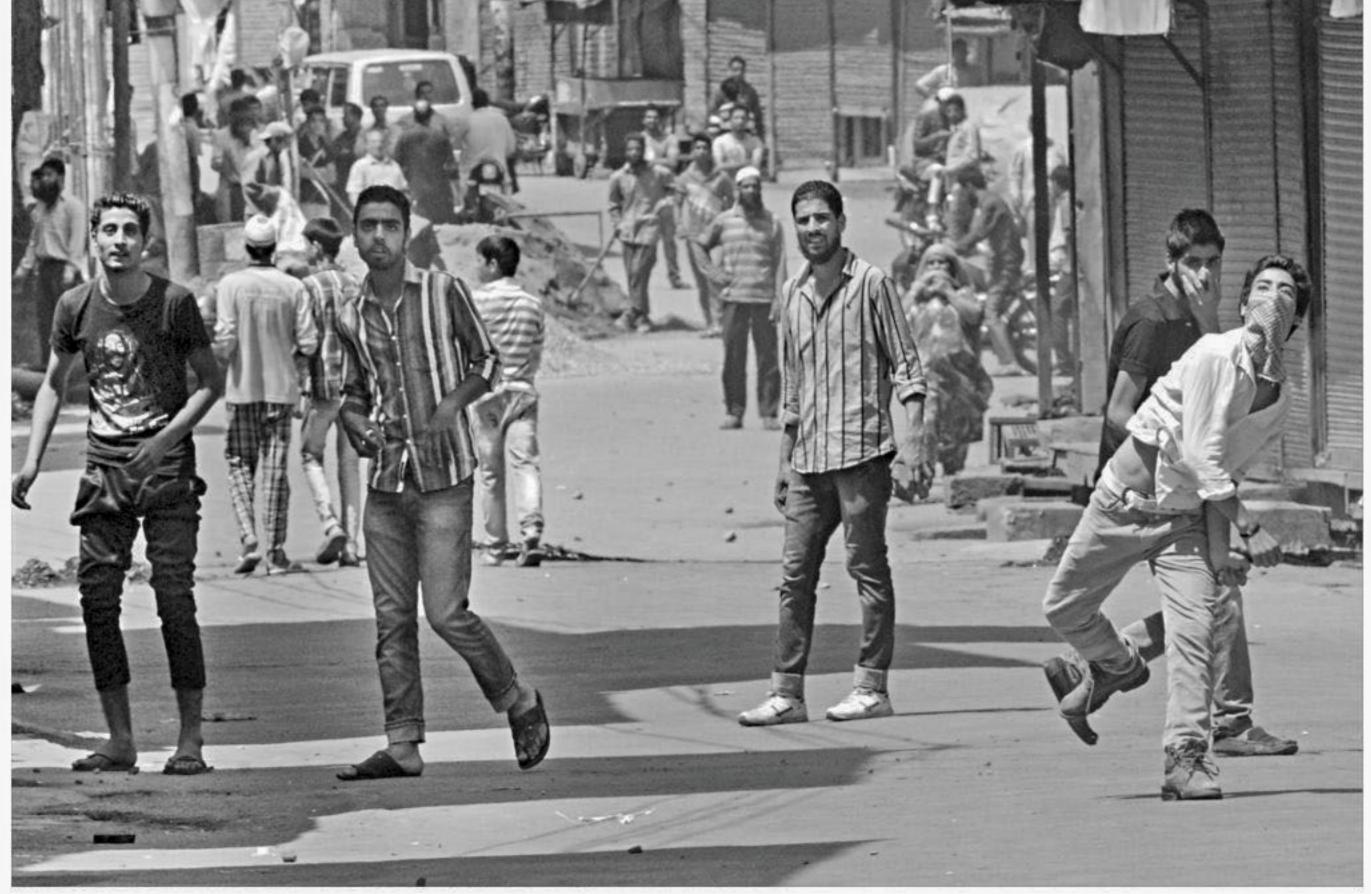


PHOTO: AFP

Kashmiri protesters throw stones at police during a clash against the killing of six villagers, in Srinagar yesterday. Indian paramilitary troops shot dead six people protesting outside a Border Security Force station, two police officers said.

He reacted by breaking off security

"We have concerns and those concerns

"I can't say 100 percent for sure, but

Khorram is one of Karzai's closest

talks with Washington and threatening to

have increased since January, and that is

over US closeness with Pakistan, specially

over issues linked to Afghanistan,"

you, yourself, can understand that one of

these two countries is behind this (Doha

advisors and considered a key member of

a more conservative faction around the

Afghan president, deeply distrustful of

out against US policy, contributing to a

troubled relationship with the Obama

in the past, Khorram accused the United

States of trying to prolong the war in

Afghanistan and said there was "defi-

nitely" a serious rift between Kabul and

He blamed the rift on US strategy in

the war, lack of transparency in US policy

towards Pakistan and on US reconstruc-

tion and economic support to

PHOTO: AFP

Karzai himself has frequently spoken

Echoing similar remarks from Karzai

both Pakistan and the United States.

office) plot," Khorram said.

boycott any peace process altogether.

break up Afghanistan'

Khorram said.

administration.

Washington.

Afghanistan.

The Taliban office in Doha was a plot to

break up Afghanistan orchestrated by

either Pakistan or the United States, a top

Hamid Karzai's chief of staff said Kabul

was concerned about growing closeness

between Pakistan and the United States,

and that there was still a huge rift with

Washington despite top-level efforts to

patch up the disastrous fall-out over the

Karzai cast a spotlight on the depth of

distrust between Kabul and Washington

and between Kabul and Islamabad. They

are also likely to play havoc with already

troublesome efforts to find a peace deal to

way it happened was a plot and

Afghanistan foiled that plot and this plot

was aimed at splitting or breaking up

Afghanistan," Karim Khorram told local

1TV in an interview, the recording of which

When the Taliban opened their office

on June 18, it was hailed as a first step

towards a potential peace deal, but a

furious Karzai slammed it as an unofficial

embassy for a government-in-exile.

"The opening of the Qatar office, the

end 12 years of Taliban fighting.

was obtained by AFP.

The remarks from someone so close to

office.

aide to the Afghan president has said.

India forces 'Taliban's office plot to kill six in Kashmir

BBC ONLINE

At least six people were killed yesterday as security forces opened fire on protesters in Indian-administered Kashmir, said officials.

It is unclear what sparked the protest. Some reports suggest it came after troops entered a local mosque.

Angry crowds then gathered outside the Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Ramban district in Jammu. Kashmir, claimed by

India and Pakistan, has seen protests and an insurgency against Indian rule since 1989. Local reports say that

many were injured when

the police opened fire on

Thursday. Some are in a critical condition. "The BSF soldiers fired indiscriminately, downing protesters left, right and centre," one witness who did

not want to be identified told the Agence France-Presse news agency by phone.

Protests have spread across Kashmir, with angry crowds on the streets in the capital, Srinagar, too.

Delay moves to stop settlement funds

poised to issue general recommendations.

tion, for example via good hygiene.

Israel urges EU; US admits setback in talks

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli President Shimon Peres yesterday urged the EU to delay stopping funding of projects involving settlements in the occupied territories as Palestinians and Israelis inch toward fresh peace talks.

"The coming days are critical," his office quoted him as saying. "Wait with your decision, give priority to peace."

The European Union is to publish new guidelines for its 28 member states on Friday that will block all funding of, or dealings with, Jewish settle-

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday called US Secretary of State John Kerry, who is in neighbouring Jordan on his latest bid to revive direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and warned that the EU was "damaging efforts to restart the talks".

ments in the occupied West Bank, including annexed east Jerusalem.

Shimon Peres

Peres said there were signs of progress in Kerry's shuttle diplomacy. The EU's office in Israel said that Kerry, Peres and Netanyahu all called European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso late on Wednesday to

discuss the guidelines. It said that the EU stood ready to negotiate with Israel regarding their planned entry into force from January 1 next year.

Netanyahu convened an emergency ministerial meeting on Tuesday

after the EU approved the guidelines. Meanwhile, Palestinian politicians rebuffed a hard-fought peace blueprint thrashed out by US Secretary of State John Kerry with president

Mahmud Abbas in a major blow to his marathon peace efforts. A US official acknowledged that Kerry was now unlikely to be able to announce a resumption of direct peace negotiations with the Palestinians despite extending until Friday his sixth visit to the region in as many months.

Indian school children light candles as they pay tribute to school children that died from food poisoning in Saran district of Bihar state, at a government school in Amritsar yesterday. Thousands of schoolchildren yesterday refused to eat free meals in poverty-stricken eastern India after 23 children died from eating lunch apparently contaminated with insecticide, officials said.

Taliban kill eight Afghans

AFP, Puli Alam

Taliban gunmen yesterday shot dead eight Afghan civilians on their way to jobs at a US military base south of Kabul, officials

"Eight Afghan workers who were working in Camp Shank were killed this morning by Taliban," said the deputy police chief in Logar province, Rais Khan Sadeq.

Logar is a Taliban stronghold that neighbours the Afghan capital.

Their bodies were found with their eyes blindfolded, the police officer said, describing them as "ordinary civilian workers" on the base.

Syria No-fly zone without ground control useless

Says British army boss

AFP, London

Britain's outgoing army chief has warned that attempts to impose a no-fly zone over Syria would be unsuccessful without establishing ground control, in an interview published in yesterday's Daily Telegraph.

Britain is at the forefront of international efforts to topple the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, and has promised to supply rebels with equipment to protect them against chemical weapons attacks.

But in his interview with the Telegraph, general David Richards said: "If you wanted to have the material impact on the Syrian regime's calculations that some people seek, a no-fly zone per se is insufficient.

"You have to be able, as we did successfully in Libya, to hit ground targets. You have to take out their air defences."

Richards stressed that a "ground control zone" would need to be established and that tanks and armoured personnel carriers would have to be "taken out".

A lack of international consensus and the splintered nature of rebel forces made it difficult to forge a military solution, the 61year-old general added. Richards retires yesterday after a military

career spanning more than 40 years. British Foreign Secretary William Hague

has promised lawmakers that the government would seek parliament's consent before deciding to arm the rebels.

There has been concern that the weapons could fall into the hands of radical Islamist opposition groups.



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- Ensure legal & compliance issues of the factory
- Monitor all health, safety & environmental issues in the whole factory premises Manage legal affairs, employee & industrial relations issues of factory
- Settle Employee grievances
- Ensure all disciplinary proceedings are carried out according to company policy & Labor Law
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- Maintain employee attendance & leave management system
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