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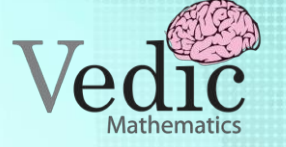
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## International News

### I. Geopolitical Conflicts & Tensions

#### Thailand-Cambodia Border Clashes Escalate:

A significant escalation of border clashes occurred between Thailand and Cambodia on July 24-25, 2025, near the ancient Ta Muen Thom temple and Preah Vihear temple.

The conflict involved small arms fire, artillery, rockets, and Thai airstrikes, resulting in at least 14 deaths (including 13 civilians) and numerous injuries, primarily on the Thai side. Over 4,000 people have been displaced from villages.

Cambodia accused Thailand of aggression and launched attacks focused on military targets. Thailand stated its actions were in self-defence against Cambodian rockets.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet has written to the UN Security Council, requesting an urgent meeting to address the situation, which has been scheduled for July 25, 2025.

This represents a rare instance of military conflict between ASEAN member countries and has also stirred domestic politics in Thailand.

#### Israel-Hamas Truce Talks Stalled:

Israel and the United States recalled their delegations from Gaza ceasefire talks on July 24, 2025, for consultations.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff accused Hamas of "failing to act in good faith" in the negotiations, indicating a significant setback in efforts to secure a ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages.

Hamas, however, affirmed its keenness to continue negotiations.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to sharply deteriorate, with reports of mass starvation. Both sides face immense international and domestic pressure to reach a deal after almost two years of conflict.

The UN rights office reported at least 875 killings in the vicinity of aid sites and food convoys in Gaza over the preceding six weeks, mostly by gunfire blamed on the Israeli military.

### Russia-Ukraine War Updates:

**Continued Hostilities:** Fighting continues, with reports from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) indicating June 2025 was the deadliest month for civilians in three years, with 232 killed and 1,343 injured.

**US Military Aid:** The U.S. State Department approved two proposed military sales to Ukraine, valued at a combined \$330 million, for artillery and air defense systems.

**Russian Measures:** Russia plans a sweeping gasoline export ban to stabilize its domestic market. It also deployed additional electronic warfare systems near the Estonian border.

**China's Role:** Reuters reported that China is covertly supplying drone engines to Russia despite sanctions. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged China to press Putin for serious engagement in peace talks.

**Ukraine's Internal Politics:** Ukrainian President Zelensky submitted a new bill to restore the independence of anti-graft agencies after protests, following criticism from US Senator



Lindsey Graham on a controversial anti-corruption law signed earlier.

**Global Outage:** A global Starlink outage on July 24 disrupted Ukrainian front lines, affecting connectivity.

**Long-term War Warning:** Ukraine's ex-top general Valerii Zaluzhnyi warned the war could last until 2034 if a ceasefire is established without building up future defenses.

## II. International Diplomacy & Global Governance

### UN Security Council Meetings (July 2025):

The Security Council has been highly active, addressing multiple global crises:

**July 25:** Emergency closed meeting scheduled to discuss the Thailand-Cambodia border clashes.

**July 24:** Adopted a presidential statement emphasizing the vital role of UN-Islamic Bloc (OIC) ties amid geopolitical complexity.

**July 23:** Urged for a ceasefire and scaled-up humanitarian aid in Gaza, as toddlers are reportedly starving.

**July 22:** Adopted Resolution 2788 (2025) to bolster the UN's toolkit on peaceful conflict resolution. The UN Secretary-General called for multilateral problem-solving amidst the "horror show in Gaza."

**July 17:** Warned that a peaceful political transition in Syria is at risk due to sectarian violence and Israeli airstrikes.

**July 16:** Demanded an end to civilian killings in Gaza waiting for aid and urged Israel to lift aid restrictions.

**July 15:** Extended the reporting requirement on Houthi attacks against vessels in the Red Sea through January 2026.

### High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2025):

Held from July 14-23, 2025, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

**Theme:** "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind."

**Focused on SDGs:** Good Health and Well-Being (3), Gender Equality (5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (8), Life Below Water (14), and Partnerships for the Goals (17).

37 countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on their progress towards the SDGs.

### EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo:

On July 23, 2025, leaders of the European Union (Ursula von der Leyen, António Costa) and Japan (Shigeru Ishiba) launched a "competitiveness alliance."

**Objectives:** Boost economic cooperation, defend free trade, counter unfair trade practices, strengthen defence industry cooperation, and promote information security. They reaffirmed commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system. This comes as Japan also finalized a new trade deal with the U.S.



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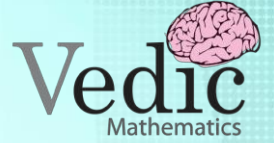
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### III. Regional Developments

#### Africa:

**Nigeria:** Bandits killed at least 70 security volunteers in Plateau State on July 9. Former President Muhammadu Buhari passed away on July 14.

**Somalia:** Al-Shabab insurgents seized the town of Tardo in the central Hiiran region on July 14, causing significant displacement.

**Central African Republic (CAR):** Local elections, initially planned for August, were postponed again on July 13 due to funding and organizational delays, drawing opposition criticism.

**Cameroon:** President Paul Biya confirmed presidential elections for October 12, 2025.

**DR Congo:** ICC convicted Central African Republic rebels Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona and Alfred Yekatom for war crimes and crimes against humanity on July 24.

**UN Refugee Agency:** Warned of funding cuts potentially leaving 11 million without aid, following a significant reduction in contributions from the United States.

#### South America:

**Brazil:** The Supreme Court declined to arrest former President Bolsonaro over a social media ban violation. Brazil also announced it would join South Africa's ICJ 'genocide' case against Israel.

**Haiti:** Colombia's President Petro visited Haiti to bolster security amid gang violence. The US is set to deport Haitian legal permanent residents with alleged gang ties.

**Regional Health Crisis:** A new Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) report warned that noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health conditions will cost South America over US\$7.3 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare spending between 2020 and 2050.

### IV. Key Global Issues

#### Global Trade Update:

Global trade expanded by an estimated \$300 billion in H1 2025, but faces mounting headwinds in H2 due to persistent policy uncertainty (e.g., US tariffs), geopolitical tensions, and signs of slowing global growth.

Developed economies (especially US imports, EU exports) outpaced developing countries in Q1 2025.

**Digital Market Concentration:** A UNCTAD report highlights increasing concentration, with the top five digital multinational enterprises accounting for 48% of global sales, underscoring the need for stronger competition law enforcement.

#### Climate Change and Environmental Concerns:

UN reports declared the global switch to renewable energy has passed a "positive tipping point," with solar and wind becoming cheaper. However, the transition isn't fast enough, especially in the Global South.

Concerns are rising over the surging electricity demand from AI data centers, with calls for them to be powered entirely by renewables by 2030.





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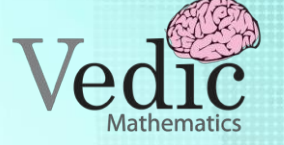
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Ongoing severe drought hotspots globally are impacting trade (Panama Canal) and causing ecological crises (Amazon River mass wildlife deaths), highlighting the urgent need for resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

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## MCQS

1. How many deaths, including civilians, were primarily reported on the Thai side due to the border clashes with Cambodia on July 24-25, 2025?

- a) 5
- b) 9
- c) 14
- d) 20

**Answer: c) 14**

Under "Thailand-Cambodia Border Clashes Escalate," the text states: "The conflict... resulting in at least 14 deaths (including 13 civilians) and numerous injuries, primarily on the Thai side."

2. Which country's Prime Minister requested an urgent UN Security Council meeting to address the Thailand-Cambodia border situation on July 25, 2025?

- a) Thailand
- b) Cambodia
- c) Vietnam
- d) Laos

**Answer: b) Cambodia**

The text states: "Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet has written to the UN Security Council requesting an urgent meeting to address the situation, which has been scheduled for July 25, 2025."

3. According to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), what was significant about civilian casualties in June 2025?

- a) It was the lowest month for civilian casualties in three years.

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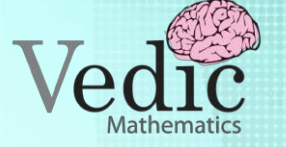
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b) It was the deadliest month for civilians in three years.

c) No civilian casualties were reported.

d) Civilian casualties were only due to short-range drone attacks.

**Answer:** b) It was the deadliest month for civilians in three years.

The "Russia-Ukraine War Updates" section notes: "reports from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) indicating June 2025 was the deadliest month for civilians in three years..."

**4. Which former top general of Ukraine warned that the war with Russia could last until 2034 if a ceasefire is established without building up future defenses?**

a) Volodymyr Zelensky

b) Valerii Zaluzhnyi

c) Oleksandr Syrskyi

d) Viktor Muzhenko

**Answer:** b) Valerii Zaluzhnyi

The text explicitly states under "Russia-Ukraine War Updates": "Ukraine's ex-top general Valerii Zaluzhnyi warned the war could last until 2034..."

**5. What is the main objective of the "competitiveness alliance" launched by the leaders of the European Union and Japan on July 23, 2025?**

a) To impose joint sanctions on specific countries.

b) To solely focus on military cooperation.

c) To boost economic cooperation, defend free trade, and counter unfair trade practices.

d) To establish a common currency for both regions.

**Answer:** c) To boost economic cooperation, defend free trade, and counter unfair trade practices.

The "EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo" section details the "Objectives: Boost economic cooperation, defend free trade, counter unfair trade practices, strengthen defence industry cooperation, and promote information security."

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