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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**CO2 pollution levels at annual record high: UN**

The U.N. weather agency says concentrations of carbon dioxide pollution in the atmosphere have accelerated and reached a record high in 2012. The World Meteorological Organization says carbon dioxide was measured at 393.1 parts per million last year, up 2.2 ppm from the previous year. Its annual inventory released Wednesday of the chief gases blamed for global warming showed that the 2012 increase in CO2 outpaced the past decade's average annual increase of 2.02 ppm. Based on that rate, the WMO says the world's carbon dioxide pollution level is expected to cross the 400 ppm threshold by 2016 - beyond the 350 ppm that some scientists and environmental groups promote as a safe level.

**AP -** [**http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-11-06/un-co2-pollution-levels-at-annual-record-high**](http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-11-06/un-co2-pollution-levels-at-annual-record-high)

CEE/CIS

**Bulgaria**

**On the EU frontlines of migrant reception**

Last week the Bulgarian authorities began preparing for construction of a $3.4 million border fence near Golyam Devrent in order to prevent these crossings. The fence will cover 30km of the 280km border. The new barrier is a reaction to the growing number of migrants and asylum seekers arriving in Bulgaria, most of them from Syria. Whereas in the past only a handful of new migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Bulgaria each day, that number has shot up in recent months to 80-100. Arrivals in 2013 are projected to exceed 11,000. A key reason for the increase is thought to be a fence built along EU neighbour Greece’s border with Turkey in 2012. Over 8,700 people have crossed into Bulgaria so far this year, most through villages like Golyam Devrent where surveillance is limited.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99062/on-the-eu-frontlines-of-migrant-reception-in-bulgaria**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99062/on-the-eu-frontlines-of-migrant-reception-in-bulgaria)

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Disrupted Kosovo vote to be repeated in some Serb areas**

A municipal election disrupted by violence at the weekend will be repeated at some polling stations at a later date, an election official said Wednesday. "Voting material from three election centres in Mitrovica was totally unusable and the central election commission decided to annul and repeat the vote there," commission member Nenad Rikalo said. The date for the repeat vote will be announced later, he told Serbian state television RTS. Voting was cut short Sunday in Mitrovica when masked Serb extremists attacked officials and smashed ballot boxes. Other violations, such as intimidation of voters, also marred the day.

**DPA -** [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/disrupted-kosovo-vote-to-be-repeated-in-some-serb-areas\_303999.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/disrupted-kosovo-vote-to-be-repeated-in-some-serb-areas_303999.html)

**Turkey**

**Turkey raids lead to detention of 16 al-Qaida suspects**

Turkish police units detained 16 al-Qaida suspects in simultaneous operations in Istanbul and other three provinces on Tuesday. The raids, which were part of an investigation into al-Qaida terrorists in Turkey, were carried out by police units in several locations including the provinces of Erzincan, Konya, Diyarbakir and Istanbul at 5:00 am. According to the local Cihan News Agency, police launched the operations after a year and half of investigations into the terrorist organization's members in the country by the Erzurum Prosecutor's Office. Earlier, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu dismissed media reports that accuse Turkey of assisting al-Qaida linked opposition groups in Syria.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c\_125655960.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c_125655960.htm)

EAPR

**China**

**1 killed, 8 injured in north China explosions**

One person was killed and eight injured in a series of small explosions Wednesday outside the provincial headquarters of the ruling Communist Party in the northern Chinese city of Taiyuan, officials said. The Shanxi provincial government and police said the blasts struck at about 7:40 am (2340 GMT Tuesday). Official statements posted online gave no information about the presumed target or perpetrators and an official with the party propaganda office, Zhang Lei, said he had no additional information. One of the injured was listed as serious and two vehicles were reported damaged. The blasts bore the hallmark of a revenge attack by a disgruntled citizen of the type that occasionally takes place around China. Assailants angered at perceived injustices have blown up public buses, stabbed officials and attacked schools.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/reports-injured-north-china-explosions-20797791**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/reports-injured-north-china-explosions-20797791)

**Myanmar**

**Children with disabilities struggle to access schools**

After decades of neglect to the education system, Burma has a low overall attendance rate, with about 10 percent of all school-aged children never starting school, according to the UN. But the figures for children with disabilities are significantly worse: The government survey showed that 50 percent of all people with disabilities, including physical and intellectual disabilities, had never attended school, largely because they were denied entrance at the government’s mainstream public schools. The high school graduation rate for people with disabilities was just 2 percent. Outside mainstream schools, disabled students have few options, with just 15 special education schools in the entire country for the deaf, blind, physically disabled and intellectually disabled, including those with autism or mental retardation. There are also seven vocational training schools for people with physical disabilities.

**Irrawaddy-** [**http://www.irrawaddy.org/feature/burmas-disabled-children-struggle-access-schools.html**](http://www.irrawaddy.org/feature/burmas-disabled-children-struggle-access-schools.html)

**Myanmar gov't, ethnic armed groups fail to make breakthrough in talks**

The two-day first ever peace talks between Myanmar government and 17 ethnic armed groups, held in Myitgyina, northernmost Kachin state's capital from Monday to Tuesday, ended without breakthrough to bring about immediate signing of a nationwide ceasefire. However, the government's Central Peace-Making Work Committee and the ethnic armed groups' Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team agreed to continue next round of talks set for December in Pha-an, capital of southeastern Kayin state, to strive for final clinching of a nationwide ceasefire and entering political dialogue at an early date, according to their joint statement released at the closing of the Myitgyina talks.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c\_132863696.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c_132863696.htm)

**Myanmar set to release dozens of political prisoners: panel member**

Myanmar may release scores of political prisoners this month to fulfil a promise by its reformist president to free prisoners of conscience by the end of this year, a member of a state-appointed panel said on Wednesday. A 19-member committee set up by President Thein Sein to identify the political prisoners has recommended 63 people be freed and the move could be imminent, Nyan Win, a former prisoner and member of the panel, told Reuters. Such a release would be in line with the guarantee Thein Sein made during a visit to Britain in July and add weight to Myanmar's promises that its political reforms are genuine and not superficial, as many critics have said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-myanmar-prisoners-idUSBRE9A50BM20131106**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-myanmar-prisoners-idUSBRE9A50BM20131106)

**Philippines**

**Al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants abduct 2 workers in south Philippines**

A Philippine military official says Al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants have abducted two employees of a telecommunications company in the country's volatile south. Marine Col. Jose Cenabre said Wednesday that three were travelling on board motorcycles when they were stopped by about 10 Abu Sayyaf gunmen Tuesday in a village in mountainous Patikul town in Sulu province. One of the three managed to escape while they were being dragged into the jungle. Cenabre says marines looking for the gunmen and their victims later took into custody a suspected Abu Sayyaf militant for questioning. Although weakened by battle setbacks, the Abu Sayyaf group remains a national security threat and holds several hostages, including two European birdwatchers and a Jordanian journalist.

**AP -** [**http://www.vancouversun.com/news/world/AlQaidalinked+Sayyaf+militants+abduct+workers+telecoms+company/9130202/story.html**](http://www.vancouversun.com/news/world/AlQaidalinked+Sayyaf+militants+abduct+workers+telecoms+company/9130202/story.html)

**Super typhoon ‘Haiyan’ may arrive Wednesday midnight, says Pagasa**

Supertyphoon “Haiyan” continued to move westward and inch closer to the Philippines, the state weather bureau said Wednesday morning. Traveling at a faster speed of 30 kph (from the previous 20 kph), the typhoon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), is expected to arrive as early as Wednesday midnight. It is forecast to make landfall in eastern Visayas on Friday. It would affect the Visayas and parts of Luzon and Mindanao. The typhoon was last observed 1,560 km east of Mindanao, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph, Pagasa said. The typhoon will be locally named “Yolanda” when it enters the Philippine area of responsibility. The US-based weather website Accuweather.com said Haiyan remains a threat to the Philippines.

**Inquirer -** [**http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/521217/supertyphoon-haiyan-may-arrive-wednesday-midnight-says-pagasa**](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/521217/supertyphoon-haiyan-may-arrive-wednesday-midnight-says-pagasa)

ESAR

**Madagascar**

**Madagascar expected to have second round of election**

The full results of the first round of presidential election held in Madagascar on Oct. 25, is expected until Friday, the Independent National Election Commission (CENIT) said. According to the trend, candidate Jean Louis Robinson is likely to pass to the second round with Hery Rajaonarimampiana on Dec. 20 because none of the 33 candidates won 50 percent of votes. Only five remote districts out of 119 throughout Madagascar is yet tallied to complete the results of the election. The latest data published by CENIT showed that Jean Louis Robinson, who led the rank among 33 candidates, won 21.44 percent as of Wednesday, and Hery Rajaonarimampianina followed with 15.68 percent. The third place was taken by Hajo Andrianainarivelo who won 10.37 on Wednesday.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c\_132864841.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c_132864841.htm)

**Mozambique**

**Mozambique campaign starts amid political tension**

Campaigning for Mozambique's fourth municipal polls kicked off on Tuesday amid the country's rising political tension and the uncertainty of the main opposition party's boycott threat. Ten political parties, including the ruling Frelimo, will take part in elections for 53 municipalities slated on Nov. 20. Mozambique's National Elections Commission appealed to political parties and candidates to make the campaign for the forthcoming municipal elections a festive occasion, and to avoid insults and vandalism. But Renamo, former rebel movement which fought against the Frelimo government for 16 years, said that it will not participate in the polls unless the current electoral law is changed. For the party of Afonso Dhlakama, the current electoral law favors the ruling party in power since independence in 1975.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/05/c\_132861702.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/05/c_132861702.htm)

**4 soldiers killed in road attacks**

Mozambique's state media says opposition fighters killed four soldiers in two separate attacks amid escalating violence in the central part of the country. The Mozambique News Agency reported Wednesday that three troops died in an ambush a day earlier by gunmen loyal to Renamo, the former rebel movement that fought a civil war after independence from Portugal in 1975. The report says Renamo fighters killed one soldier and injured three civilians, one of whom was pregnant, in a second attack on vehicles with a military escort on the country's main north-south highway.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mozambique-soldiers-killed-road-attacks-20800176**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mozambique-soldiers-killed-road-attacks-20800176)

**Somalia**

**Government calls urgent assistance for those affected by devastating floods in middle Shabelle Region**

The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia Abdi Farah Shirdon today appealed to Somalis and international aid organisations to provide urgent assistance and essential services to the thousands of people affected by flooding in Jowhar district of Middle Shabelle region. The flooding has already claimed the lives of 11 people, while a further 11 thousand people and 31 villages have been badly affected.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201311051110.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201311051110.html)

**South Sudan**

**South Sudan poised to sign new deal compact with aid donors**

South Sudan is poised to become the latest "fragile state" to sign a new deal compact with aid donors, setting out benchmarks for peace and statebuilding. Western aid officials say they have been impressed by the level of consultations from the South Sudanese government since the broad agreement on a compact in April. Consultations have taken place in all 10 states, from which 10 benchmarks for the government have emerged and five for donors. South Sudan is expected to sign its compact in early December. The priorities that have emerged from the consultations include national reconciliation, infrastructure and roads, access to justice and protection of civilians and human rights. For donors, better aid flows and results reporting, increased use of government systems and more predictable aid commitments are among the priorities.

**The Guardian-** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/nov/05/south-sudan-new-deal-compact-aid-donors**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/nov/05/south-sudan-new-deal-compact-aid-donors)

**S. Sudan lawmaker urges no amnesty for Yau Yau**

A South Sudanese lawmaker has urged President Salva Kiir to withdraw an amnesty offer made to rebel leader David Yau Yau, saying that the only hope for peace in Jonglei state is for Yau Yau to be captured and brought to justice. "He was offered amnesty since last year and he refused the offer and he chose to fight. So we feel that the amnesty must be withdrawn from him and he should be made accountable," Deng Dau Deng, the representative for Twic East County in Jonglei state, said. "Yau Yau is a threat to the territorial integrity of this country, a threat to peace, a threat to security," he added, accusing Yau Yau’s forces of being behind attacks on three cattle camps in Twic East County last month. Yau Yau has denied he was behind the attacks, in which officials have said 79 people were killed, 20 children abducted, and some 25,000 head of cattle rustled.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/south-sudan-lawmaker-jonglei-state-kiir-yau-yau-amnesty/1784464.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/south-sudan-lawmaker-jonglei-state-kiir-yau-yau-amnesty/1784464.html)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**UN calls for better access to statistics in LatAm**

The UN called for greater statistical autonomy in Latin American countries to promote development and equality, a UN official said here Tuesday. The governments need to strengthen capabilities of information gathering, record keeping and policy forecasting of their statistical institutes, like central banks, said Alicia Barcena, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). "They should not keep up with political circumstance, but instead should be legitimate instruments trusted by citizens," she made the remarks at the opening of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA).

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c\_132863718.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c_132863718.htm)

**Colombia ELN rebels demand Chilean timber company leaves country**

Colombia's ELN rebels are demanding that a Chilean timber company abandon its operations in the Andean nation, although the leftist group still plans to free one of the firm's local contractors held captive for 15 months. Compania Agricola La Sierra "should leave the country, like the Canadian mining company Braeval Mining Company" the ELN said in a statement on its website. It also said it would release Andres Montes Ceballos, an Agricola La Sierra engineer it kidnapped in July 2012. A Braeval contractor held by the ELN for seven months was freed in August, meeting one of the demands by President Juan Manuel Santos made to enable the start of peace talks with the insurgent group. Braeval said in July it would suspend operations in Colombia, however, it did not tie its decision to the kidnapping.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/05/colombia-rebels-idUSL2N0IQ1CQ20131105**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/05/colombia-rebels-idUSL2N0IQ1CQ20131105)

**Venezuela**

**Doctors say Venezuela's health care in collapse**

Driving the crisis in health care are the same forces that have left Venezuelans scrambling to find toilet paper, milk and automobile parts. Economists blame government mismanagement and currency controls set by the late President Hugo Chavez for inflation pushing 50 percent annually. The government controls the dollars needed to buy medical supplies and has simply not made enough available. Doctors not allied with the government say many patients began dying from easily treatable illnesses when Venezuela's downward economic slide accelerated after Chavez's death from cancer in March. Doctors say it's impossible to know how many have died, and the government doesn't keep such numbers, just as it hasn't published health statistics since 2010.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/doctors-venezuelas-health-care-collapse-20798932**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/doctors-venezuelas-health-care-collapse-20798932)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israel says Separation Wall will be border**

Israeli negotiators have told their Palestinian counterparts that the Separation Wall that cuts through the occupied West Bank will serve as the border of a future Palestinian state, local media reports said. Just hours before US Secretary of State John Kerry's arrival for top-level talks on ongoing direct peace negotiations on Tuesday, two press reports said the Israeli team had made the proposal. "Israel's opening position was that the border be the route of the separation barrier [wall], and not the 1967 lines as the Palestinians have demanded," public radio said in a report, which also featured in the top-selling Yediot Aharonot. Since talks resumed in late July, the Palestinians have repeatedly complained about Israel's lack of clarity on the issue of borders.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/israel-says-separation-wall-will-be-border-201311514132609960.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/israel-says-separation-wall-will-be-border-201311514132609960.html)

**Iran, Israel attended Middle East nuclear meeting**

Iran, Israel and Arab states took part in a meeting two weeks ago about prospects for an international conference on banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East, diplomats reported, a rare such gathering of regional adversaries. They gave no details about the October meeting in the Swiss village of Glion near Montreux. An Israeli official said various envoys set out their national positions but Israel had no direct communication with Iranian and Arab delegates. An Arab diplomat reported: "That they were there, the Israelis and Iran, is the main thing." The discussions were also attended by representatives of the US and some Arab states, the diplomat added, without naming them. There were 13-14 delegations around the table and Finnish Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary of State, who is charged with organizing the Middle East conference, was among the participants, another diplomat said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/05/us-nuclear-iran-israel-arabs-idUSBRE9A40LX20131105**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/05/us-nuclear-iran-israel-arabs-idUSBRE9A40LX20131105)

**Egypt**

**Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood loses appeal on group ban**

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood lost an appeal on Wednesday against a court decision to ban the group and seize its funds, court sources said. A court in September banned the Brotherhood, Egypt's oldest and most influential Islamist group, after Islamist president Mohamed Mursi was ousted by the army following mass protests against his rule on July 3.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-egypt-brotherhood-idUSBRE9A50BX20131106**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-egypt-brotherhood-idUSBRE9A50BX20131106)

**Iran**

**FM says nuclear accord 'possible' this week**

Iran's Foreign Minister said Tuesday a deal to end a standoff with the international community over Tehran's nuclear programme could be reached at talks in Geneva later this week. "I believe it is even possible to reach that agreement this week but I can only talk for our side, I cannot talk for the other side," Mohammad Javad Zarif told France 24 television ahead of talks here with his French counterpart Laurent Fabius. Although Zarif tempered his remarks by saying that there was much work still to be done, his relatively upbeat comments contrasted with more pessimistic remarks from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who have both played down the chances of a deal in Geneva.

**AFP-** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i23C1gGYfUidK8NLdB3ggh80bHNw?docId=a42cc11b-4e9c-4ae0-81b3-290c1d52a6a4**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i23C1gGYfUidK8NLdB3ggh80bHNw?docId=a42cc11b-4e9c-4ae0-81b3-290c1d52a6a4)

**Iran prosecutor killed in attack: official**

A public prosecutor in Iran's restive southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan was killed Wednesday in a "terrorist attack," the head of the provincial judiciary said. "Around 7:30 am (0400 GMT), Mousa Nouri, the prosecutor of the city of Zabol, came under attack by unknown people," the Fars news agency quoted Ebrahim Hamidi as saying. He said gunmen stopped the prosecutor's car in front of a hospital before opening fire on it. "Unfortunately in this terrorist attack, the prosecutor and his private driver were martyred," said Hamidi. Zabol is close to the border with Afghanistan.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-06/236938-iran-prosecutor-killed-in-attack-official.ashx#axzz2jqnsqZXq**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-06/236938-iran-prosecutor-killed-in-attack-official.ashx#axzz2jqnsqZXq)

**Iran's 840,000 Afghan refugees not forgotten: UNHCR**

UNHCR has "not forgotten" the 840,000 Afghan refugees in Iran, an official from the body said on a visit to Tehran on Tuesday. "The whole world is at the moment very much focused on the Syria crisis, it is also important that UNHCR show we have not forgotten the Afghan refugees," UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Janet Lim said. Lim was ending a three-day visit to the Islamic republic, home to the world's largest community of Afghan refugees, some of whom first fled fighting in their homeland in the 1980s.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h3EE2QPLILqI4IXk-N1mdDedaGog?docId=4126d9c2-4a35-4402-8582-a9985d49731d**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h3EE2QPLILqI4IXk-N1mdDedaGog?docId=4126d9c2-4a35-4402-8582-a9985d49731d)

**Iraq**

**Iraq attacks kill 13 people, as 2013 toll tops 5,500**

Attacks in Iraq killed 13 people Tuesday, most of them security personnel, officials said, the latest casualties in a country-wide spike in violence that the government has failed to stem. Iraq is mired in its worst violence since 2008, with more than 5,500 people killed this year despite several major military operations and tightened security measures. Meanwhile, Iraqi officials say a suicide attack targeting the police in the country's east has killed at least seven policemen and wounded 14.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-05/236865-iraq-attacks-kill-10-people-as-2013-toll-tops-5500.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-05/236865-iraq-attacks-kill-10-people-as-2013-toll-tops-5500.ashx#axzz2jqnsqZXq)

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/suicide-car-bombing-attacks-kill-iraq-20791677**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/suicide-car-bombing-attacks-kill-iraq-20791677)

**Libya**

**Chaos in Libya brings trouble importing food**

Payments problems, chaos and corruption are hampering Libyan importers from making big deals to buy wheat, another setback as the country spins out of control two years after dictator Muammar Gaddafi was toppled by rebels and NATO warplanes. In the latest disruption, the biggest wheat importer Mahatan Tripoli, which supplies most of the capital's bread, says it may have to put off its next major wheat purchase unless the state starts paying it nearly $100 million owed for previous imports. here are no signs of food shortages - quite the opposite: bread is still plentiful and cheap. But global grain traders say big Libyan buyers are now having difficulty arranging import deals. Exporters abroad are worried about being paid on time, and about the additional risks of unloading ships in chaotic ports where armed militia members run rampant.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-libya-food-idUSBRE9A50CA20131106**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-libya-food-idUSBRE9A50CA20131106)

**State of Palestine**

**No talks with Israel while settlement grows, Palestinian official says**

The Palestinians cannot continue peace talks with Israel if Jewish settlement on the occupied West Bank keeps expanding, a senior Palestinian official told AFP on Tuesday. "The Israeli side is determined to continue its settlement and we cannot continue negotiations under these unprecedented settlement attacks," he said on condition of anonymity after a stormy meeting of Israeli and Palestinian negotiators. "The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations broke down during the session on Tuesday night," the official said, as US secretary of state John Kerry arrived in Jerusalem to try to revive the fragile peace process.

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/No-talks-with-Israel-while-settlement-grows-Palestinian-official-says/articleshow/25283012.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/No-talks-with-Israel-while-settlement-grows-Palestinian-official-says/articleshow/25283012.cms)

**UN halts work on Gaza projects due to Israeli building materials ban**

The UN said on Tuesday it had halted work on all but one of its 20 Gaza building projects as a result of an Israeli ban on importing building materials into the Palestinian enclave. Israel imposed the ban after discovering on October 13 a 2.5-km tunnel which it said militants planned to use for attacks inside its territory. Islamist Hamas, which has run the Gaza Strip since 2007, claimed it dug the tunnel. A spokesman for the Israeli government agency that oversees shipments into Gaza gave no indication when the import ban might be lifted.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/05/us-palestinians-israel-un-idUSBRE9A40PE20131105**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/05/us-palestinians-israel-un-idUSBRE9A40PE20131105)

**US gives $75 million more in aid to Palestinians**

US Secretary of State John Kerry says the United State will provide an additional $75 million in aid to create Palestinian jobs and help them improve roads, schools and other infrastructure. US officials say the aid is intended to boost Palestinian public support for faltering peace talks with Israel by showing them tangible benefits from the process. Kerry announced the aid on Wednesday in Bethlehem, where he is meeting Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. Kerry met earlier Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. The new aid brings the US contribution to a Palestinian infrastructure program to $100 million.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-75-million-aid-palestinians-20800175**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-75-million-aid-palestinians-20800175)

**Sudan**

**Situation dire for Darfuris in East Jebel Marra after clashes, air raids**

The Sudanese Air Force reportedly launched intensive air raids on the valley of Jebel Dengo, north of Dady on Monday and Tuesday, following the battle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and armed rebel movements on Sunday. Substantial SAF reinforcements have arrived in Tabit, and they are randomly shelling the East Jebel Marra region. Speaking to Radio Dabanga, listeners from East Jebel Marra said that the area “looks like ashes” after the battle. The bodies of fallen SAF troops are still lying in the open, east and south of the villages of Nimra, Dali and Masalit. “Not only have 85 bodies still not been recovered, there are also dozens of cattle carcasses and wrecked vehicles scattered around the area.” West of Dali, the SAF was able to recover 13 bodies and transfer them to Tabit on Monday.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/58456**](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/58456)

**Syria**

**Bomb hits Damascus city centre, eight dead: SANA**

A bomb exploded in a central square of Damascus on Wednesday, killing eight people and wounding several others, Syria's state news agency said. The SANA report said the blast hit Hejaz square, in the heart of the capital, but offered no further details as to who was behind the attack. Rebels fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad have often planted bombs or launched mortars into the capital.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-syria-crisis-bomb-idUSBRE9A50ID20131106**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/us-syria-crisis-bomb-idUSBRE9A50ID20131106)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan police find bodies of 7 abducted soldiers**

Afghan police say they have found the bodies of seven soldiers, believed to have been killed by their Taliban captors in a southern province. The police say the bodies were found on Wednesday on the outskirts of the provincial capital of southern Zabul province. Police chief Ghulam Sakhi says the seven Afghan National Army soldiers disappeared while travelling from southern Kandahar province to their homes in neighboring Zabul a week ago. Afghan forces have taken over the security of the country ahead of the 2014 withdrawal of US and NATO combat troops.

**AP -** [**http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/11/06/afghan-police-find-bodies-of-7-abducted-soldiers**](http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/11/06/afghan-police-find-bodies-of-7-abducted-soldiers)

**Maldives**

**Maldives likely to hold presidential vote Saturday**

The president of the Maldives says the presidential election will likely be held Saturday after he mediated an agreement among the three candidates on a disputed voters' register. The two previous election attempts failed. The Supreme Court annulled results of a Sept. 7 election because it said fake names and dead people were on the voters' list. Police stopped a second attempt last month because all the candidates had not approved the voters' register as the Supreme Court mandated. President Mohamed Waheed Hassan told reporters Wednesday that he had explained to the candidates the importance of having an election as scheduled and the candidates have agreed to endorse the list.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/maldives-hold-presidential-vote-saturday-20800018**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/maldives-hold-presidential-vote-saturday-20800018)

**India**

**5.5-magnitude earthquake jolts NE India**

An earthquake measuring 5.5 degrees on the Richter scale jolted Assam state in northeast India at 09:46 a.m. local time Wednesday, said Indian meteorological department. Tremor was felt in the main city of the state Gauharti and some neighboring states, according to local media. The quake has caused neither damages of property nor casualties so far.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c\_132863933.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c_132863933.htm)

**Pakistan**

**Fear of reprisal, Pakistan’s UN office warns employees**

Fearing a reprisal following the killing of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Hakimullah Mehsud in a drone strike on Friday, the local UN office has issued an alert to its employees, The Express Tribune has learnt. “Imminent security threat at Centaurus Mall, Islamabad, for two weeks. Huge security threat of hostage situation and mass killings,” the UN office’s alert says, according to a circular of the Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP). “Therefore, necessary actions be taken with the cooperation of their management, to enhance the security of important shopping malls, especially those being run by or franchise of foreign store chains,” circular further stated. Another report issued by the Punjab Home Department reveals that the TTP is planning to target the US and other Western nationals. “They are likely to hit top political leaders, senior government functionaries, key government installations and army/police establishments/envoys. Fool-proof security and precautionary measures are therefore warranted to avoid any mishap,” reads another alert. According to yet another report, the leaderships of banned outfits have jointly decided to execute attacks on armed forces’ personnel and installations, law enforcing agencies’ personnel and installations, government setups and foreign missions, embassies and consulates.

**Tribune -** [**http://tribune.com.pk/story/627300/fear-of-reprisal-pakistans-un-office-warns-employees/**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/627300/fear-of-reprisal-pakistans-un-office-warns-employees/)

WCAR

**Benin**

**FAO to help flood-hit farm communities rebound**

The FAO today launched an emergency response programme to support farmers in northern Benin who lost crops, livestock and fishing grounds when the region was hit by floods in August. “This is emergency assistance with a longer-term view, in that it includes awareness raising and training on resilience for community members and local authorities, said the Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, who was in the country to launch the programme. “This can help shape a new approach that looks to the future beyond the short timeframe of immediate emergencies.” Agriculture accounts for 70 per cent of employment in Benin. In the rural and impoverished northern region, families are even more dependent on agriculture and less able to cope with repeated setbacks.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46420&Cr=Benin&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46420&Cr=Benin&Cr1)**=**

**Burkina Faso**

**Attempts under way to improve child nutrition**

A third of children under the age of five in Burkina Faso are chronically malnourished, something that the Ministry of Health says is not always due to lack of food, but a lack of the right foods. The head of the Ministry’s Nutrition Department, Betrine Ouaro, says “Foods need to be rich. Our grains are good, but you need to complement them with proteins, fruits and other vitamin-rich foods.” She says “it’s not enough to give a young child millet porridge and think they have a balanced diet.” Ouaro said that mothers will often say their children are well-fed because they don’t feel hungry. But having a full stomach doesn’t mean you are well nourished. WFP reports that 88% of children under the age of five in Burkina Faso suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. Micronutrients are things like iron, iodine and zinc. They are important for kids because they help their brains and bodies grow.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/attemps-under-way-in-burkina-faso-to-improve-child-nutrition/1783942.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/attemps-under-way-in-burkina-faso-to-improve-child-nutrition/1783942.html)

**DR Congo**

**Congo UN chief salutes army for defeating rebels**

The head of Congo's UN peacekeeping mission says he salutes the army for its victory over the M23 rebels and warns other armed groups in the country's volatile east that further threats against the civilian population will not be tolerated. During a press conference Wednesday, Martin Kobler said the army had complete control over all territory formerly held by M23, which has been blamed for killing scores of civilians in eastern Congo over the last year and a half. Kobler stressed that "the political problem is not resolved" and called for a resumption of dialogue.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/m23-fighters-eastern-congo-ending-rebellion-20790923**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/m23-fighters-eastern-congo-ending-rebellion-20790923)

**Mali**

**At least 35 arrests over French journalist murders**

At least 35 suspects have been arrested in 48 hours as the hunt intensifies for the killers of two French journalists shot dead in Mali's north, sources reported. "A few dozen people have been arrested on Malian territory over 48 hours in the course of the investigation related to the murder of the two French journalists," a source from the Kidal administration reported. A member of the Malian security forces confirmed the information, putting the number of people detained at "at least 35". News of the arrests came after the French Foreign Minister announcing that 150 French soldiers had been sent to join 200 troops already in Kidal. He said however that France would stick to plans to withdraw two-thirds of the 3,000 soldiers it has in Mali by the end of January. The Kidal government source described the arrests as an "encouraging" advance in the investigation.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131105/at-least-35-arrests-mali-over-french-journalist-murders**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131105/at-least-35-arrests-mali-over-french-journalist-murders)

**European Union maintains its commitment**

The European Commissioner for Development announced further support for Mali totalling EUR 615 million (following approval by the European Parliament and the Council) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for 2014 to 2020. This new allocation emphasises the EU’s determination to maintain its support for building peace and economic and social development in Mali. The new support package will focus on government reform, food security, education and the construction of a road linking Gao and Kidal to the Algerian border, in line with the priorities drawn up by the Malian authorities in their Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of Mali 2013-2014.

**EU -** [**http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\_IP-13-1014\_en.htm?locale=en**](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1014_en.htm?locale=en)

**Internally displaced people fall to 283,000**

According to IOM’s latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report published by IOM Mali, 45,526 households (283,726 individuals) are still internally displaced as consequence of the 2012 crisis in the country’s north. This means the number of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali has decreased by 50,824 from 334,550 reported by the DTM three months ago. The report indicates that Bamako hosts the largest number of IDPs (67,250), followed by the regions of Gao (47,562), Tombouctou (45,082) and Kidal (36,800). In addition to Bamako, other southern regions continue to host smaller numbers of IDPs: Mopti (29,722), Ségou (24,442), Koulikoro (23,500), Sikasso (7,257) and Kayes (2,111). The vast majority of IDPs registered in the southern regions come from Tombouctou (49%) and Gao (38%) – the regions most affected by the crisis in the north. The data show that the decrease is due to people returning home.

**IOM -** [**http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2013/pbn-listing/mali-internally-displaced-fall-t.html**](http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2013/pbn-listing/mali-internally-displaced-fall-t.html)

**France won't delay troop drawdown despite killings**

France will stick to its timetable for withdrawing troops from Mali despite a resurgence in violence and the killing of two French journalists, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Tuesday. France, which sent soldiers to its former colony in January to combat militants who had taken over large swathes of Mali, has already delayed by two months plans to reduce troop numbers from 3,200 to 1,000 by the end of the year. Speaking on Radio France Internationale, Fabius said France had moved 150 soldiers from the south to Kidal, the northerly Tuareg rebel stronghold where instability has grown in recent months, and where the journalists were abducted.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/france-wont-delay-mali-troop-reductions-despite-killings-153108610.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/france-wont-delay-mali-troop-reductions-despite-killings-153108610.html)

**Nigeria**

**Army says killed seven suspected militants in northeast**

Nigeria's army reported that it had shot dead seven suspected Boko Haram fighters during a raid in a northeastern area where the rebels have killed dozens in the last week. The Bama area in Borno state, where the latest fighting occurred, has become a flashpoint in Boko Haram's four-year insurgency. "In simultaneous operations conducted...(in) the area of Bama, the military recorded huge successes as seven suspected Boko Haram militants were killed and several others injured," reported the Borno state army spokesperson. Vehicles, explosives and weapons were also recovered during the raid on rebel camps around Bama, he added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104523-nigeria-army-says-killed-seven-suspected-islamists-in-northeast**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104523-nigeria-army-says-killed-seven-suspected-islamists-in-northeast)

**Nigeria's Boko Haram could be war criminals: UN**

Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamists could be classed as war criminals, the UN human rights office said Tuesday, as it condemned a bloody attack on a wedding convoy. "Members of Boko Haram and other groups and entities, if judged to have committed widespread or systematic attacks against a civilian population ... (could be) guilty of crimes against humanity," said Cecile Pouilly, spokeswoman for OHCHR. The Islamist insurgents have killed dozens of people over recent days in restive northeast Nigeria, first storming a town on motorbikes and pick-up trucks and then carrying out highway ambushes. Boko Haram gunmen were blamed for Saturday's slaying of more than 30 people, including the groom, when a wedding convoy was halted on a road near the border with Cameroon.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5goyTp\_FPj5zEtfO44VpgC7kZkPtA?docId=7306ea64-0aa2-4b45-a24d-fe453426e56b&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5goyTp_FPj5zEtfO44VpgC7kZkPtA?docId=7306ea64-0aa2-4b45-a24d-fe453426e56b&hl=en)

**Outgoing negotiator says Boko Haram want talks**

The head of a panel tasked with seeking an amnesty deal with Boko Haram said Tuesday that key members of the Nigerian extremist group wanted peace talks but the credibility of the claim remained in doubt. Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, chairman of the amnesty committee which was created in April, was speaking as he submitted his final report to President Goodluck Jonathan in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"The process was initially difficult," Turaki said of trying to start negotiations with the insurgent group that is blamed for killing thousands since 2009. "However many of the key members of the insurgents... have positively responded to contacts and have accepted the dialogue options capable of full resolution of the conflict," he told Jonathan. Jonathan accepted Turaki's proposal to set up a fresh panel to further pursue peace talks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iNmLOOyryT4zWCw2UMHFlvLoqUnA?docId=b754386b-55db-4fda-99f3-76594929b717&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iNmLOOyryT4zWCw2UMHFlvLoqUnA?docId=b754386b-55db-4fda-99f3-76594929b717&hl=en)

**Presidents asks legislators to extend emergency rule for 6 months**

The official News Agency of Nigeria says President Goodluck Jonathan is asking legislators to extend for another six months the state of emergency in three northeastern states battling an Islamic uprising. The agency says Jonathan made the request Wednesday to the House of Representatives. Jonathan declared a state of emergency May 14 that was approved by Parliament to cover the states of Yobe, Adamawa and Borno, the birthplace of the Boko Haram terrorist network whose fighters have killed hundreds of civilians and security forces in recent weeks.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-extend-emergency-rule-months-20800591**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-extend-emergency-rule-months-20800591)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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