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CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Three Turkish soldiers shot dead in 'terrorist' attack**

Masked gunmen on Saturday shot dead three Turkish soldiers in the restive Kurdish-majority southeast of the country, the army said, blaming separatist "terrorists" for an attack that threatens to undermine a fragile peace process. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack. But in a statement the army blamed "three terrorists from the separatist terrorist organisation", in a clear reference to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which the military never mentions by name.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/three-turkish-soldiers-shot-dead-terrorist-attack-171623107.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/three-turkish-soldiers-shot-dead-terrorist-attack-171623107.html)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine's pro-western parties win polls amidst crisis**

Ukraine's pro-western parties are set to rule the country after the first elections to the body since February's revolution, suggest exit polls. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's bloc seems set to win the most with PM Arseny Yatsenyuk's People's Front party a close second, as the votes are counted. Poroshenko thanked the voters for their support and described it as a call for a reformist, pro-European majority.

**Yahoo -** [**https://in.news.yahoo.com/ukraines-pro-western-parties-win-polls-amidst-crisis-054141485.html**](https://in.news.yahoo.com/ukraines-pro-western-parties-win-polls-amidst-crisis-054141485.html)

**As death toll surpasses 3,700, UN SC faster action needed to end violence, tensions in the east**

The ASG for Human Rights warned the Security Council that peace arrangements in eastern Ukraine were progressing far too slowly to end the violence and tensions there, and called on all actors to work more urgently toward durable peace. Highlighting key findings of the sixth monthly report of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, he said that the continued fighting — including not only small arms fire, but also artillery exchanges — had caused the current registered death toll from the conflict in the east to rise.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11614.doc.htm**](http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11614.doc.htm)

EAP

**China**

**China to streamline counter-terrorism intelligence gathering**

China will set up a national anti-terrorism intelligence system, state media said on Monday, reporting changes to an anti-terror law expected to be passed this week in the wake of an upsurge in violence in the far western region of Xinjiang. Amendments to the counter-terrorism law aimed to improve intelligence gathering and the sharing of information across government departments, while also enhancing international cooperation.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141027050616-dbe2h/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141027050616-dbe2h/?source=search)

ESA

**Botswana**

**Botswana ruling party wins national elections**

High Court Chief Justice Maruping Dibotelo said in a statement on Sunday that Khama "has been re-elected as the President of the Republic after his political party, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) garnered at least 29 of the 57 parliamentary seats" at Friday's general election.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/botswana-ruling-party-wins-national-elections-2014102614335233589.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/botswana-ruling-party-wins-national-elections-2014102614335233589.html)

**South Sudan**

**South Sudan accused of threatening aid groups**

International NGOs in South Sudan are facing increased harassment, surveillance and threats of expulsion from the government, according to a charity on Friday. A letter to over 100 international aid agencies from South Sudan's NGO Forum detailed the "increasing trend of harassment and interference targeting NGOs" that is "marked by increased hostility and threats from officials". Incidents include the detention and expulsion this month of one foreign worker as "escalating rhetoric and the overall hostile tone toward [the] international community" rises, the letter said. It also detailed concerns over the alleged "increased surveillance of NGO communications". Last month South Sudan's Ministry of Labour ordered all international aid workers out of the country before another ministry rescinded it.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/south-sudan-accused-threatening-aid-groups-141327129.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/south-sudan-accused-threatening-aid-groups-141327129.html)

**20 killed in S. Sudan clashes between army, pastoralists**

At least 20 army troops were killed over the weekend in clashes between the South Sudanese army and armed pastoralists in the central Lakes State. The clashes occurred about 40 miles from the provincial capital Rumbek but we are still waiting for reports to know the causes. The state has been a center of violence over the past few months as the country is still gripped by a devastating political crisis. Several revenge attacks have also been reported between ethnic communities.

**World Bulletin -** [**http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/147093/20-killed-in-s-sudan-clashes-between-army-pastoralists**](http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/147093/20-killed-in-s-sudan-clashes-between-army-pastoralists)

**Jonglei teachers refuse to call off strike**

Teachers in South Sudan’s Jonglei state vowed on Saturday to prolong their sitting-down strike, until authorities address their grievances. Schools were shut down on Tuesday after teachers failed to agree with government over allowances meant to top up monthly wages ranging from 280-350 South Sudanese Pounds for a primary teacher.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52842**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52842)

**South Sudan president agrees to adoption of federal system: source**

South Sudan's president, Salva Kiir, has unconditionally accepted the adoption of a federal system of governance in the country, including all accompanying reforms, a high-level presidential source disclosed on Sunday. According to the source, the president also agreed to share power with the armed opposition movement under the leadership of former vice-president Riek Machar, in line with the protocol of agreed principles as set down by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is mediating peace talks between the two warring parties.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52850**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52850)

**Zambia**

**Children killed in Zambia boat accident**

A ferry capsized in Zambia, leaving at least 26 people dead, most of them children. Authorities said on Saturday that 23 school children, aged between six and 15 years, a baby and parents drowned. The children were travelling to another school across Lake Kariba, in the south of the country, where they were meant to participate in Zambia's 50th Independence Day celebrations.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/children-killed-zambia-boat-accident-2014102519194576292.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/children-killed-zambia-boat-accident-2014102519194576292.html)

LAC

**Brazil**

**Dilma Rousseff re-elected Brazil president**

Brazil's incumbent president Dilma Rousseff has won a second term, defeating her opposition rival Aecio Neves with a narrow margin in a nearly complete count of votes after a presidential run-off election. In a victory speech shortly after in Brasilia, Rousseff said she hoped to be a better president in her second term and said she was determined to undertake reforms and changes that the Brazillian society demands. Neves conceded defeated to Rousseff in a speech to his supporters.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2014/10/dilma-rousseff-re-elected-brazil-president-2014102621945179938.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2014/10/dilma-rousseff-re-elected-brazil-president-2014102621945179938.html)

**Uruguay**

**Uruguay's presidential election is heading to a runoff**

Uruguay's presidential election is heading to a runoff between Tabare Vazquez of the ruling leftist coalition and center-right challenger Luis Lacalle Pou, two exit polls showed an hour after voting ended on Sunday. Both polls showed Vazquez falling short of the 50 percent majority required to win outright in the first round.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/uruguays-presidential-election-headed-runoff-exit-polls-224446199--business.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/uruguays-presidential-election-headed-runoff-exit-polls-224446199--business.html)

MENA

**Egypt**

# Egypt imposes state of emergency in Sinai after attacks

Egypt has declared a three-month state of emergency in parts of the Sinai Peninsula after at least 31 soldiers were killed in two attacks there. President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi has declared three days of mourning in the wake of the suspected jihadist attacks. Egypt's Rafah crossing into the Gaza Strip was also closed, state TV said.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29766945**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29766945)

**Iran**

**Iran hangs woman in defiance of international campaign**

Iran executed Saturday a 26-year-old woman who had spent five years on death row for the murder of a former intelligence official, defying international pressure to spare her life.

Reyhaneh Jabbari was hanged at dawn, the official IRNA news agency quoted the Tehran prosecutor's office as saying.

**AFP -** [**http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-iran-hangs-woman-in-defiance-of-international-campaign-2014-10**](http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-iran-hangs-woman-in-defiance-of-international-campaign-2014-10)

**Iraq**

**US-led aircraft pound IS with 23 air strikes**

The coalition pounded the Islamic State group Friday and Saturday with 22 air strikes in Iraq and one in Syria. Eleven of the bombings in the heavy barrage targeted IS units, buildings, positions, and vehicles near the strategic Mosul Dam. There was no word of whether or not civilians were killed in the attacks, but according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, US-led airstrikes had killed 32 civilians, including six children.

**Maan News -** [**http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=735223**](http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=735223)

**Jerusalem**

**Clashes in Jerusalem, flashpoint Palestinian funeral delayed**

Israeli police clashed with Palestinians across east Jerusalem Saturday ahead of a potentially explosive funeral that was delayed for a day and tight security conditions imposed. Relatives of Abdelrahman Shaludi, the Palestinian driver who ploughed into a Jerusalem crowd on Wednesday, killing an Israeli baby, were told to be ready to bury him Sunday night, their lawyer said.

**Yahoo -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/clashes-jerusalem-ahead-palestinian-killer-driver-funeral-184217877.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/clashes-jerusalem-ahead-palestinian-killer-driver-funeral-184217877.html)

**Lebanon**

**Army battles jihadists in north Lebanon, 14 killed**

At least 14 people were killed in running battles between Lebanese troops and ISIS-inspired militants in north Lebanon Saturday as the military pursued a crackdown to rid the port city of Tripoli of jihadists plotting attacks in the country. Two civilians, three soldiers and at least six militants were killed and 20 people were wounded, including 10 soldiers, in fighting in Tripoli that erupted overnight. The clashes in Tripoli, widely seen as a spillover of the crisis in neighboring Syria, were the worst in the mainly Sunni city for several months. Friday's attack on the Army was sparked by the arrest of an alleged ISIS commander, Ahmad Salim Mikati, during a raid Thursday in Dinnieh, north Lebanon.

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Oct-25/275328-clashes-in-north-lebanon-wound-10-including-five-soldiers.ashx#axzz3HL5PpQy2**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Oct-25/275328-clashes-in-north-lebanon-wound-10-including-five-soldiers.ashx#axzz3HL5PpQy2)

**Army seizes three rigged cars in north Lebanon**

The Lebanese Army has seized three rigged cars in north Lebanon Sunday as it regained control over the district of Minyeh, the military announced in a statement. The Army said it discovered an explosive-laden car the Bhanine village of Minyeh, hours after it had discovered two other rigged cars in the same area.

**Daily star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Oct-26/275362-army-seizes-two-rigged-cars-in-north-lebanon.ashx#axzz3HFMfBxlA**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Oct-26/275362-army-seizes-two-rigged-cars-in-north-lebanon.ashx#axzz3HFMfBxlA)

**State of Palestine**

**Arab Bank starts appeal against Hamas finance ruling**

Arab Bank Group said it had begun legal steps to appeal a US jury ruling which found it liable for financing Islamic group Hamas. The US civil lawsuit brought against the Jordan-based bank has been described by lawyers as the first of its kind to reach trial. Jurors last month found it was liable for giving material support to Hamas and said it must compensate victims of two dozen attacks attributed to the group in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/arab-bank-starts-appeal-against-hamas-finance-ruling**](http://jordantimes.com/arab-bank-starts-appeal-against-hamas-finance-ruling)

**Sudan**

**Sudan's Bashir wins party backing for vote, set to extend 25 year rule**

Sudan's ruling party has given final approval to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir as its candidate in next year's presidential vote, sealing his bid to extend his rule after 25 years in power.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/26/us-sudan-bashir-idUSKBN0IF0A120141026**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/26/us-sudan-bashir-idUSKBN0IF0A120141026)

**Syria**

**Syria regime air strikes kill 21 children**

Syrian government air strikes on two rebel-held areas of the central province of Homs killed at least 25 civilians, 11 of them children, a monitoring group said on Sunday. Sixteen members of a single family were among 18 people killed in raids late Saturday on the town of Talbisseh, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. They included 10 children and three women, said the Britain-based monitoring group which has a wide network of sources inside Syria.

**Ahram -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/113969/World/Region/Syria-regime-air-strikes-kill--children-Monitor.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/113969/World/Region/Syria-regime-air-strikes-kill--children-Monitor.aspx)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia's secular party Nidaa Tounes ahead in parliament election**

Tunisia's leading secular party Nidaa Tounes has won more than 80 seats in an election for the new 217-member parliament against 67 seats for Islamist party Ennahda, according to a party source based on a preliminary ballot count. Election authorities are expected to announce official results on Monday, but if confirmed the result would be a setback for Ennahda, which won the most seats in 2011 in the first free election after the fall of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2809138/Tunisias-secular-party-Nidaa-Tounes-ahead-parliament-election--source.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2809138/Tunisias-secular-party-Nidaa-Tounes-ahead-parliament-election--source.html)

**Yemen**

**Ten civilians killed as Yemeni Houthis advance into Qaeda stronghold**

Around 10 civilians were killed as Houthi fighters backed by Yemeni government fire fought into strongholds of al Qaeda and its tribal allies in the center of the country on Sunday. The Yemeni army pounded fighters of al Qaeda's local wing, Ansar al-Sharia, and local tribes with air strikes, artillery and Katuysha rockets in al-Baydah province, about 160 km southeast of the capital Sanaa.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/26/us-yemen-security-idUSKBN0IF0D020141026**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/26/us-yemen-security-idUSKBN0IF0D020141026)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Britain and US ends combat role in Afghanistan**

British troops ended their combat operations in Afghanistan on Sunday as they and U.S. Marines handed over two huge adjacent bases to the Afghan military, 13 years after a U.S.-led invasion launched the long and costly war against the Taliban. Their coming departure leaves Afghanistan and its newly installed president, Ashraf Ghani, to deal almost unaided with an emboldened Taliban insurgency after the last foreign combat troops withdraw by year-end.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/26/us-afghanistan-troopwithdrawal-idUSKBN0IF06I20141026**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/26/us-afghanistan-troopwithdrawal-idUSKBN0IF06I20141026)

**Pakistan**

**Security for polio health workers**

The number of cases of polio in Pakistan has topped 200 for the first time in nearly 15 years. Pakistan is the only country where the virus is spreading fast, showing up in sewage samples all over Karachi. The Taliban imposed a ban on the vaccine in 2012 which has meant nearly 300,000 children have not been vaccinated for two years. Security personnel escort workers as they administer the vaccine.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29750956**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29750956)

**Country detects more polio cases on awareness day**

The WHO said that three more polio cases have surfaced in Pakistan, bringing the number of new cases to 220, a record figure that authorities blame on attacks by insurgents targeting vaccination teams. The WHO statement came as many nations observed World Polio Day in order to raise awareness about the highly contagious virus, which is transmitted in unsanitary conditions but is easily fended off with a vaccine. Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria are the only countries where polio, which can cause paralysis and death, remains endemic.

**AP -** [**http://bigstory.ap.org/article/99d01df419494714b59095c4b7d05c2b/pakistan-detects-more-polio-cases-awareness-day**](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/99d01df419494714b59095c4b7d05c2b/pakistan-detects-more-polio-cases-awareness-day)

**18 militants killed in Pakistani army air raids**

At least 18 militants have been killed in Pakistani army’s airstrikes in a restive tribal district near the border with Afghanistan. The Pakistani military said in a Sunday statement that the air raids took place on Saturday night in the country’s northwestern Khyber tribal area, where the pro-Taliban and other militants have been holed up. A huge cache of weapons and ammunition was also demolished throughout the army attacks, according to the statement.

**Press TV -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/10/26/383679/pakistan-airstrikes-target-militants/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/10/26/383679/pakistan-airstrikes-target-militants/)

**Sri Lanka**

**Extremism may derail Sri Lanka progress**

Rising extremism is causing significant concern among minority communities in Sri Lanka, particularly Muslims, Justice Minister Rauf Hakeem said in Riyadh during an interview this week. “This is an unfortunate trend that needs to be addressed with great seriousness,” said Hakeem, who is also the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress.

**Arab News -** [**http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/649821**](http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/649821)

WCA

**Across Region**

**Development lenders pledge $8 bln to Horn of Africa**

Global development lenders, including the World Bank, African Development Bank and European Union, pledged more than $8 billion on Monday to boost economic growth and reduce poverty in eight countries in the Horn of Africa. The region, which includes Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Uganda, Sudan and South Sudan, includes some of the world's fastest-growing economies - with vast, untapped natural resources - but it has also been beset by extreme poverty and conflict.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141027040115-7rqpy/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141027040115-7rqpy/?source=search)

**Benin**

**UN offers grant to Benin for fighting gender-based violence**

The UN has provided a line of $6.4m in grant to the government of Benin for projects intended to eliminate gender-based violence and promote human rights in the West African country. A funding agreement was signed on Friday in Cotonou by the Beninese Development Minister Marcel de Souza and Sorgho Mounier, the UN coordinator in Benin.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article\_xinhua.aspx?id=248819**](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=248819)

**Ghana**

**Ghanaian authorities struggle to contain cholera outbreak**

While the world is focused on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, cholera has sickened more than 7,000 in Ghana’s capital, Accra, since breaking out this summer. Cholera cases have been reported northwest of the capital in Kumasi, as well as in the Upper East Region in the far northern part of the country. Fifty-seven victims have died.

**ReliefWeb -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/ghanaian-authorities-struggle-contain-cholera-outbreak**](http://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/ghanaian-authorities-struggle-contain-cholera-outbreak)

**Mali**

**Mali Ebola victim travelled while contagious**

Mali's first Ebola victim, a two-year-old girl, has died of the disease amid an alert she travelled across the country by bus while contagious. The World Health Organisation on Friday said the two-year-old girl was bleeding from her nose during her journey on public transport and may have infected many people.

The girl was travelling from Guinea with her grandmother and passed through several towns in Mali, including two hours in the Malian capital of Bamako before ending their journey in the western city of Kayes. Her death was confirmed on Friday by health officials speaking to news agencies. Her infection makes Mali the sixth West African country to record a case of the disease. WHO said 43 people who came into contact with the child, including 10 health workers, were being monitored for symptoms and held in isolation.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/mali-ebola-20141024185354206718.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/10/mali-ebola-20141024185354206718.html)

**Niger**

**Cholera sickens nearly 1,000 people**

Doctors Without Borders says a cholera outbreak in Niger killed 20 people and has sickened nearly 1,000 people. The medical aid group said that several districts in the country's south have been affected. Doctors Without Borders began working with Niger's Health Ministry to stamp out the cholera outbreak when the first cases were identified in September. In addition to treating the sick, teams from the group are handing out chlorine to treat water, disinfecting homes and teaching people how to avoid becoming infected.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/cholera-sickens-1000-people-niger-26430990**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/cholera-sickens-1000-people-niger-26430990)

**Nigeria**

**Dozens killed as multi-national forces recapture Abadam**

Dozens of Boko Haram terrorists were killed between Friday night and Saturday morning in Abadam town of Borno State after a fierce gun battle between troops of the Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the insurgents in a bid by the military to reclaim the community that fell under the control of the insurgents last week, witnesses and security sources said.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201410260020.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201410260020.html)

**Kidnapped women 'used by Boko Haram on front line'**

Boko Haram has used kidnapped young women and girls on the front lines of its insurgency, according to a new report published on Monday, after a fresh abduction in Nigeria's far northeast.

Suspected fighters kidnapped about 30 children, including girls as young as 11, in Borno state at the weekend. A week earlier, at least 40 women and girls were seized in neighbouring Adamawa.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/kidnapped-women-used-boko-haram-front-line-rights-044217800.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/kidnapped-women-used-boko-haram-front-line-rights-044217800.html)

**Nigeria: Victims of Abductions Tell Their Stories**

Women and girls abducted by the Islamist group Boko Haram are forced to marry, convert, and endure physical and psychological abuse, forced labor, and rape in captivity, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The group has abducted more than 500 women and girls since 2009, and intensified abductions since May 2013.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/10/27/nigeria-victims-abductions-tell-their-stories**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/10/27/nigeria-victims-abductions-tell-their-stories)

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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