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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**AIDS campaigners say pandemic has finally reached tipping point**

The world has finally reached "the beginning of the end" of the AIDS pandemic that has infected and killed millions in the past 30 years, according to a leading campaign group fighting HIV. The number of people newly infected with HIV over the last year was lower than the number of HIV-positive people who joined those getting access to the medicines they need to take for life to keep AIDS at bay. But in a report to mark World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, the ONE campaign, an advocacy group working to end poverty and preventable disease in Africa, warned that reaching this milestone did not mean the end of AIDS was around the corner.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130235939-obcng/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130235939-obcng/?source=search)

**Japan starts Chemical Weapon destruction in China**

A Japanese-built facility in China on Monday began destroying the largest cache of World War II chemical weapons abandoned in the country, Tokyo officials said, in a rare case of co-operation between the two countries. The facility has been built in Harbaling in the northeast, where some 300,000 to 400,000 chemical weapons are believed to have been left behind, a government official at Japan's Cabinet Office told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157401-japan-starts-chemical-weapon-destruction-in-china**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157401-japan-starts-chemical-weapon-destruction-in-china)

CEE/CIS

**Russia**

**Russia accuses NATO of destabilising northern Europe –Interfax**

Russia believes NATO is destabilising northern Europe and the Baltic states, including by holding military exercises there, Interfax news agency on Monday quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Meshkov as saying. Russia accuses NATO of encroaching on it by strengthening ties with east European countries that used to be dominated by the Soviet Union and Moscow has increasingly flexed its military muscle this year as ties with the West soured over Ukraine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201122943-1o8sb/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201122943-1o8sb/?source=jtTheWire)

**Turkey**

**Kurdish deal with Turkey within reach but legal guarantees key – Ocalan**

settlement to end a three-decade insurgency by Kurdish militants in Turkey could be reached within months if the government puts in place legal guarantees for Kurdish rights, a jailed militant leader was quoted as saying on Sunday. The siege by Islamic State militants of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani on the Turkish border has risked derailing Turkey's fragile peace process with its own Kurds, who have accused Ankara of failing to protect their ethnic kin.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130112413-s4amw/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130112413-s4amw/?source=search)

**Ukraine**

**EU imposes sanctions on Ukraine rebel vote organisers**

The EU has imposed sanctions on the organisers of rebel elections in eastern Ukraine this month, the bloc said on Saturday, hitting the separatists and their organisations with asset freezes and travel bans. As reporting by Reuters on Thursday, EU governments decided to add 13 Ukrainian separatists and five of their political organisations to a sanctions list that already covers 119 people and 23 entities. Rebels in eastern Ukraine held their elections on Nov. 2, arguing that the vote was the next step after local referendums in May calling for independence from Ukraine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141129092807-7yc0t/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141129092807-7yc0t/?source=search)

**Large, unauthorized convoy enters east Ukraine from Russia**

Ukraine said on Sunday that a convoy of 106 vehicles had entered its eastern territory from Russia without Kiev's permission and accused Moscow of once again using humanitarian aid shipments to send weapons and ammunition to separatist rebels. In the separatist-held city of Donetsk, fighting intensified at the local airport.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/30/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0JE0HZ20141130**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/30/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0JE0HZ20141130)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Southern Thai peace talks discussed as PM visits Malaysia**

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak on Monday discussed prospects for restarting stalled peace talks aimed at ending southern Thailand's deadly Muslim insurgency, officials said. Prayut arrived in Malaysia on Monday morning for the several-hour visit, his first to Thailand's southern neighbour since the former military chief seized power in a May coup. His regime has indicated it favors re-starting the Malaysia-hosted peace talks between Thailand and Muslim rebels that began under the previous Thai government led by Yingluck Shinawatra.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157384-southern-thai-peace-talks-discussed-as-pm-visits-malaysia**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157384-southern-thai-peace-talks-discussed-as-pm-visits-malaysia)

**China**

**15 killed, 14 hurt in attack in China's Xinjiang – Xinhua**

Fifteen people were killed and fourteen wounded in an attack in China's restive region of Xinjiang, the official Xinhua news agency said on Saturday, citing a statement from local authorities. Eleven of those killed were described as "mobsters" who drove into a street of food stalls, threw explosive devices and stabbed people in the incident on Friday in Shache County, state-owned Xinjiang news website Tianshan News said. It said detonation devices, large knives and axes were among items police seized from the scene.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141129101508-n86o3/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141129101508-n86o3/?source=search)

**China's Xinjiang passes rules, plans fines to curb unrest – Xinhua**

China's Xinjiang region has banned the practise of religion in government buildings and will fine those who use the Internet to 'undermine national unity', in a package of regulations aimed at combating separatism in the north-western province. Deadly attacks attributed to ethnic Uighur separatists have left hundreds dead in Xinjiang and other parts of China in recent years.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130142054-2f4do/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130142054-2f4do/?source=search)

**China reports new human case of H7N9 bird flu**

China confirmed a new human infection of the deadly H7N9 avian influenza virus, state news agency Xinhua said, the first case this winter in the southern province of Guangdong. A 31-year-old woman surnamed Deng, from the provincial city of Dongguan, was confirmed on Friday to have been infected with the virus, Guangdong's health and family commission said in a statement on its website. The patient, in critical condition, is being treated in the provincial capital of Guangzhou, it added.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141129034100-dia70/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141129034100-dia70/?source=search)

**WHO warning as China says nearly 500,000 living with HIV**

WHO issued a call to action to China Monday over HIV/AIDS as government figures said nearly half a million people are living with the disease or its precursor, with hundreds of thousands more thought to be undiagnosed. Bernhard Schwartlaender, the WHO's representative in China, wrote in an op-ed in the state-run China Daily newspaper that "there is much more China needs to do" to prevent infection and better help those living with HIV. "Perhaps most importantly, we must eliminate stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV, and at-risk populations such as men who have sex with men, sex workers, and injecting drug users," Schwartlaender wrote.

**AFP -** [**http://www.mysinchew.com/node/103778?tid=37**](http://www.mysinchew.com/node/103778?tid=37)

ESA

**Across ESA**

**Kabila 'coup plot': DR Congo suspects acquitted in South Africa**

A group of 15 men accused of plotting to assassinate the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Joseph Kabila, have been acquitted by a South African court. Prosecutors dropped the case because of a lack of evidence against the men, all Congolese nationals. However, five more suspects are still facing trial. They include the plot's alleged ringleader Etienne Kabila, who says President Kabila is an imposter.

Thesigan Pillay, a lawyer for 10 of the acquitted men, told the BBC his clients plan to sue the authorities for the two years they spent in custody.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30253164**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30253164)

**Kenya**

**Blast in eastern Kenya wounds one – police**

An improvised explosive device wounded one person on Sunday in a market in the eastern Kenyan town of Garissa, close to the border with Somalia, police said. The attack comes amid heightened tensions across Kenya. Last Saturday, suspected al Shabaab militants from Somalia killed at least 28 people in northern Kenya's Mandera County after ambushing a passenger bus.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/afghanistan-suicide-attack-funeral-kills-9-084557204.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/afghanistan-suicide-attack-funeral-kills-9-084557204.html)

**Malawi**

**Condom rebrand vital to curb new HIV infections among Malawi’s youth**

Condoms have become increasingly unpopular among young people in Malawi, contributing to high HIV transmission rates. Recently the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and the Malawi government have joined hands to launch the CONDOMIZE! campaign in an effort to persuade young people to protect themselves by using condoms. But why is there a strong resistance to condoms from the youth population? According to a study conducted by PSI/Malawi, it could all be down to their image. The study showed that young people in Malawi perceive free unbranded condoms to be poorly made, less safe and more likely to break than other brands.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201100042-damzc/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201100042-damzc/?source=search)

**South Sudan**

**Fleeing the horrors of South Sudan fighting**

At least 25,000 displaced people have gathered on the northern border, with more on the way trying to escape attacks. Four-hundred families arrived in the baking, dusty village of Calek recently after they fled in two waves from Abyei, a contested fist of land on the border of Sudan and South Sudan.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/11/fleeing-horrors-south-sudan-fighting-2014112793257740419.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/11/fleeing-horrors-south-sudan-fighting-2014112793257740419.html)

LAC

**Brazil**

**Drought-hit Sao Paulo may 'get water from mud'**

São Paulo, Brazil's drought-hit megacity of 20 million, has about two months of guaranteed water supply remaining as it taps into the second of three emergency reserves, officials say. This is the first time the state has resorted to using the reserves, experts say. Brazil's southeast region is suffering its worst drought in at least 80 years after an unusually dry year left rivers and reservoirs at critically low levels. "I believe that, technically, it would be unviable. But if it doesn't rain, we won't have an alternative but to get water from the mud," Andreu said at a hearing about the water crisis in Brasilia's Lower House of Congress on Nov. 13.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141129082906-ds9hs/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141129082906-ds9hs/?source=leadCarousel)

**Colombia**

**Colombian rebels free army general and two other hostages**

Colombia's Marxist guerrillas freed an army general and two other captives on Sunday, paving the way for peace negotiations in Cuba to resume in the quest to end five decades of war. President Juan Manuel Santos halted the talks two weeks ago after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) seized five hostages, including General Ruben Dario Alzate. Santos insisted there would be no more negotiations until all five hostages were freed.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201033632-k4m4f/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201033632-k4m4f/?source=search)

**Mexico**

**5 mutilated bodies found in southern Mexico**

Five mutilated bodies were found in a region of southern Mexico where 11 decapitated corpses were discovered just three days ago, authorities said Sunday. The five bodies were found early Sunday in the back of a vehicle abandoned in the municipality of Chilapa, the Guerrero state prosecutor's office said in a statement. The bodies, which were also decapitated, have not been identified. Guerrero is the same state where 43 students at a teachers college vanished in September after they were detained by local police and presumably handed over to a drug gang.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/5-mutilated-bodies-found-southern-mexico-195623195.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/5-mutilated-bodies-found-southern-mexico-195623195.html)

**Uruguay**

**Uruguay's Vazquez wins presidential vote, extends leftist rule**

Tabare Vazquez won back his old job as president of Uruguay in a runoff election on Sunday, extending the decade-long rule of a leftist coalition and allowing it to roll out a groundbreaking law that legalizes the production and sale of marijuana. Vazquez won comfortably with 52.8 percent support while his center-right challenger, Luis Lacalle Pou, trailed on 40.5 percent, official results showed late on Sunday night. Vazquez, 74, is a respected oncologist who helped heal rifts inside the Broad Front in the late 1990s and led it to power in 2005, ending two decades of conservative rule that followed a military dictatorship.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201034803-4t24r/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201034803-4t24r/?source=search)

**Venezuela**

**UN watchdog urges Venezuela to investigate torture allegations**

The United Nations' torture watchdog on Friday expressed "alarm" at reports of torture and abuse by Venezuelan authorities during months of opposition protests this year and urged the country to fully investigate the incidents. The Committee Against Torture said complaints included reports of beatings, burnings and electric shocks in efforts to obtain confessions. It added that prosecutors have filed charges in only five of 185 investigations of such incidents.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141128170142-t6wby/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141128170142-t6wby/?source=leadCarousel)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Arabs to present draft on Palestinian state to UN Security Council within days**

Arab League foreign ministers endorsed on Saturday a draft resolution setting a timeframe for the creation of a Palestinian state and said they would formally present it to the UN SC Council for a vote within days. The ministers said in a statement after their meeting that a follow-up committee including Jordan, an Arab member of the Security Council, would begin to seek international backing for the resolution. Arab League chief Nabil al-Araby said Jordan would present the draft to the Security Council within days. A proposed resolution on a Palestinian state is unlikely to gain the support of veto-wielding council member the US, a key ally of Israel. It is not clear whether Washington would engage in formal negotiations on such a document.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141129161852-j4ev6/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141129161852-j4ev6/?source=dpagehead)

**Netanyahu ally says Israel may need early elections**

Netanyahu should seek early elections if his coalition allies continue to bicker in public, Israel's defense minister said on Sunday. Netanyahu's government has been torn by differences over proposed cuts to the 2015 budget, policy towards Palestinians in Jerusalem, and a Jewish nation-state bill that critics say would discriminate against Arab citizens. Speculation has been rife that Israel's elections may come much sooner than the scheduled 2017

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/30/us-mideast-israel-politics-idUSKCN0JE0TN20141130**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/30/us-mideast-israel-politics-idUSKCN0JE0TN20141130)

**Palestinian woman stabs Israeli, shot by security forces**

A Palestinian woman stabbed an Israeli in the occupied West Bank on Monday and was then shot and wounded by security forces, the military and police said. Violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories has risen in the past months. Attacks carried out by Palestinians have killed 11 Israelis. Twelve Palestinians have been killed, including several of the assailants. The latest incident occurred in the Etzion bloc of Jewish settlements near Jerusalem. The Israeli was lightly wounded.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/palestinian-woman-stabs-israeli-shot-security-forces-102554455.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/palestinian-woman-stabs-israeli-shot-security-forces-102554455.html)

**Algeria**

**Two die in southern Algerian rioting over housing, jobs**

Two demonstrators were killed when clashes broke out late on Friday between riot police and residents demanding better living conditions in southern Algeria, residents and a hospital said. Riots over public housing and services are common but rarely result in deaths in the OPEC oil-producing country where the government uses energy revenues to fund subsidy programmes to avert unrest.

Reuters - <http://www.trust.org/item/20141129114015-duw5y/?source=search>

**Egypt**

**Sisi sees new future for Egypt after Mubarak verdict**

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has said Egypt will never return to the past and is charting a new future, after a court dismissed murder charges against former leader Hosni Mubarak. A Cairo court on Saturday dropped the charges over the deaths of hundreds of protesters during the 2011 uprising that ended three decades of autocratic Mubarak rule. Seven of his security commanders, including feared former interior minister Habib al-Adly, were also acquitted over the deaths of some of the roughly 800 people killed during the revolt. Corruption charges against Mubarak's sons Alaa and Gamal were also dropped.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157400-sisi-sees-new-future-for-egypt-after-mubarak-verdict**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157400-sisi-sees-new-future-for-egypt-after-mubarak-verdict)

**Iraq**

**Iraq's divisions will delay counter-offensive on Islamic State**

US air support and pledges of weapons and training for Iraq's army have raised expectations of a counter-offensive soon against Islamic State, but sectarian rifts will hamper efforts to forge a military strategy and may delay a full-scale assault. The Sunni Islamists stormed through northern Iraq in a 48-hour offensive in June, charging virtually unopposed towards the outskirts of Baghdad, humiliating a US-trained Iraqi army which surrendered both land and weapons as it retreated. By contrast, even a successful effort by the Shiite-led government to dislodge Islamic State, also known as ISIS, from Sunni territory where it rules over millions of Iraqis would be fiercely fought and could stretch well beyond next year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130055908-tgxfh/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130055908-tgxfh/?source=jtTheWire)

**Libya**

**About 400 killed in past six weeks of fighting in Libya's Benghazi –medics**

About 400 people have been killed in six weeks of heavy fighting between Libyan pro-government forces and Islamist groups in Libya's second-largest city Benghazi, medical staff said on Saturday. Backed by forces led by a former general, the newly formed government army launched in mid-October an offensive against Islamists in Benghazi, expelling them from the airport area and from several camps the army had lost during the summer.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141129195226-zqa5b/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141129195226-zqa5b/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Sudan**

**Sudan government and Darfur rebels fail to agree**

As peace talks between the Sudanese government and two rebels groups from the Darfur region, enters the fifth day in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, the two sides have failed to strike an agreement.

**Sudan Tribune-** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53163**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53163)

**Sudan's Bashir slams UN peacekeepers, demands they leave**

A peacekeeping force in Darfur had become a security burden and should leave, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said on Sunday, escalating a row that has already led to the closure a joint United Nations-African Union office in Khartoum. Sudan said last week it had shut UNAMID's human rights office in Khartoum, amid tension over allegations of mass rape by Sudanese troops in a remote Darfur village.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130104913-4t9gw/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130104913-4t9gw/?source=jtTheWire)

**Syria**

**WFP suspends food aid for 1.7 mln Syrian refugees**

A lack of funds has forced the WFP to stop providing food vouchers for 1.7 million Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, it said on Monday. "Without WFP vouchers, many families will go hungry. For refugees already struggling to survive the harsh winter, the consequences of halting this assistance will be devastating," said WFP, which needs $64 million to support the refugees for the rest of December.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201113242-rniny/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201113242-rniny/?source=jtTheWire)

**Tunisia**

**'Terrorists' Behead Off-Duty Tunisia Policeman**

"Terrorists" in Tunisia have abducted and decapitated an off-duty policeman, media reports on Monday cited the interior ministry as saying. The officer and his brother were in a car in the Kef area of the northwest when gunmen seeking to rob them immobilized the vehicle. During the robbery, the attackers discovered that the man was in the police and they kidnapped and later killed him, radio stations Mosaique and Express-FM quoted a ministry spokesman as saying.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157394-reports-terrorists-behead-off-duty-tunisia-policeman**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157394-reports-terrorists-behead-off-duty-tunisia-policeman)

**Yemen**

**Thousands rally for independence in Southern Yemen**

Thousands of demonstrators gathered in Yemen's southern port city of Aden to call for independence from the north on Sunday, prompting police to move in to break up the gathering. Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said they dispersed protesters gathered outside a government building by firing tear gas and shooting in the air. They said protesters had moved to storm the building, and three were injured and rushed to the hospital. The officials said the area is now quiet. The police and military had deployed heavily ahead of the protest.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thousands-rally-independence-southern-yemen-27261371**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thousands-rally-independence-southern-yemen-27261371)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**5 Dead in Taliban attack on foreigners' offices in Kabul**

Three Taliban and two foreigners, whose nationalities have not been disclosed, died in a suicide attack Saturday against offices used by foreigners in Kabul, the third attack in the Afghanistan capital in the last three days, an official told Efe. The attack began at mid-afternoon when several bombs exploded and insurgents ran into the building in the Kartise area on the southwest side of the capital, some 200 meters (655 feet) from the Afghan parliament, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said.

**EFE-** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/29/5-dead-in-taliban-attack-on-foreigners-offices-in-kabul/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/29/5-dead-in-taliban-attack-on-foreigners-offices-in-kabul/)

**3 South Africans Killed in Afghan Attack**

Taliban suicide attackers killed the South African leader of a foreign aid group, his son and daughter and an Afghan worker in an assault on the agency's Kabul offices, authorities said Sunday, as the city's police chief resigned in the wake of the latest insurgent attack there.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghanistan-foreigners-killed-kabul-attack-27258522**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghanistan-foreigners-killed-kabul-attack-27258522)

**Suicide attack at funeral kills 9**

An Afghan official says a suicide bomber detonated his payload at a crowded funeral, killing two police and seven civilians. Taj Mohammed Taqwa, chief of the Burka district in the Baghlan province north of Kabul, says the attacker appeared to be targeting police and local officials, including him, who were among some 1,000 people attending Monday's funeral. Taliban insurgents have stepped up attacks across Afghanistan in the run-up to the official end of the U.S. and NATO combat mission on Dec. 31, raising concerns about whether local security forces will be able to protect the country as foreign troops shift to a supporting role.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/afghanistan-suicide-attack-funeral-kills-9-084557204.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/afghanistan-suicide-attack-funeral-kills-9-084557204.html)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistan’s Jundullah claims attack on polio team**

Jundullah terrorist group has claimed responsibility for a recent attack on a polio vaccination team in Pakistan’s south western province of Balochistan. On Friday, a spokesman for the militant group claimed responsibility for the Wednesday assault that killed four polio workers near the provincial capital Quetta. Three other immunization workers were injured in the raid.

**Press tv -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/11/28/387947/jundullah-claims-attack-on-polio-team/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/11/28/387947/jundullah-claims-attack-on-polio-team/)

**Three accused nabbed for beating polio vaccinators in Lahore**

Police arrested three men for beating up two polio vaccinators in Lahore, officials said Friday, the latest case of violence against health workers seeking to immunise children against the crippling disease. Gunmen on Wednesday killed four members of a polio vaccination team in the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of southwestern Balochistan province.

**Frontier -** [**http://www.thefrontierpost.com/2014/11/three-accused-nabbed-for-beating-polio-vaccinators-in-lahore/**](http://www.thefrontierpost.com/2014/11/three-accused-nabbed-for-beating-polio-vaccinators-in-lahore/)

**Imran Khan Threatens to Shut Down Pakistan with Protests**

Pakistani cricketer-turned-opposition leader Imran Khan staged a major rally in Islamabad on Sunday, threatening to shut down the whole country with protests as he bids to topple the government. Khan, who alleges massive rigging in the 2013 election that swept Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to power for the third time, has been holding demonstrations around the country since mid-August. But his campaign has lost momentum after so far failing in its aims.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157345-imran-khan-threatens-to-shut-down-pakistan-with-protests**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157345-imran-khan-threatens-to-shut-down-pakistan-with-protests)

WCA

**CAR**

**C. African militia says to lay down arms, become political party**

The 'anti-balaka' militia in CAR, formed in response to abuses by mostly Muslim rebels who seized power last year, said it would lay down its weapons and become a political movement. Representatives for the mostly Christian militia movement decided at a general assembly in the capital Bangui late on Saturday that their movement would be renamed the Centralafrican Party for Unity and Development (PCUD). Leaders of the anti-balaka movement - which is popular with many in southern Central African Republic - have for several months aspired to turn the militia into a political movement ahead of presidential and legislative elections next year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130142000-t8zu5/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130142000-t8zu5/?source=search)

**Cote d’Ivoire**

**Ivory Coast army protests sow fears of return to unrest**

Protests by disgruntled soldiers in Ivory Coast have exposed the government's failure to reform its mutiny-plagued armed forces and its rapid capitulation sets a dangerous precedent in a country with bright economic prospects. When thousands of soldiers poured out of barracks and erected barricades in towns across the country this month, it was a stark reminder of the coups, mutinies and rebellions that have crippled the world's top cocoa grower.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141130075841-wf6v8/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141130075841-wf6v8/?source=leadCarousel)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram hits north Cameroon schools**

Nearly 70 schools in Cameroon’s Far North Region have been forced to close, are damaged, or operate intermittently as a result of the recurrent cross-border raids by Nigerian Boko Haram insurgents, officials say. The 69 affected schools (mostly primary schools) are in Logone and Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga departments of the Far North Region, which lies across the border from Nigeria’s northeastern heartland of Boko Haram. In Mayo-Sava, for instance, 20 out of 30 schools are not operating since the start of the new school year in September, said deputy-prefect Ibrahim Koulagna. “Boko Haram attacks on villages and schools have forced students and teachers to flee. There are many displaced families in the region. This displaced population is now occupying other localities like the central towns of Kolofata and Mora,” Koulagna told IRIN.

**Relief web -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/boko-haram-hits-north-cameroon-schools**](http://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/boko-haram-hits-north-cameroon-schools)

**At least 120 dead in Nigeria mosque suicide attack**

At least 120 people were killed and 270 others wounded on Friday when two suicide bombers blew themselves up and gunmen opened fire during weekly prayers at the mosque of one of Nigeria's top Islamic leaders. The attack at the Grand Mosque in Kano, the biggest city in the mainly Muslim north of the country, came just as Friday prayers had started.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/-/1066/2539088/-/68986iz/-/index.html**](http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/-/1066/2539088/-/68986iz/-/index.html)

**Militants attack Nigeria's Yobe state capital, fighter jet circling – residents**

Suspected Boko Haram Islamist militants attacked Nigeria's Yobe state capital Damaturu early on Monday, residents said. One resident, cameraman Mustapha Usman, said he heard gunshots and explosions from around 6 a.m. and they were still going on. "I saw a military jet circling three times. People have abandoned their vehicles on the road and gone home," Usman said. Several other residents said they saw a Nigerian fighter jet flying over the city in northeastern Nigeria. One witness, Mike David, said the militants were shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) and shooting everywhere.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201090238-kqm5k/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201090238-kqm5k/?source=jtTheWire)

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