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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**China to send peace-keeping police to Liberia**

China will send a 140-strong riot squad to Liberia for a UN peace-keeping mission, the Ministry of Public Security announced on Sunday. The 14-member first batch of the squad will set off from Beijing on Monday. It is composed of a deputy chief of the squad, a liaison officer, and personnel from the logistics, combat and medical sector. After their arrival, they will set up camps and lay the groundwork for the arrival of the rest of the peace-keeping squad. The second batch will leave for Liberia "in a few days," the ministry said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.china.org.cn/world/2013-09/29/content\_30172216.htm**](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2013-09/29/content_30172216.htm)

CEECIS

**Turkey**

**Government unveils reforms, some aimed at Kurds**

Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced a package of proposals that include lifting of some restrictions on the use of the Kurdish language, as well as further steps to liberalize the wearing of Islamic headscarves. The planned reforms announced Monday were anticipated as key to the Kurdish peace process and for Erdogan's political prospects as he faces local, general and presidential elections in the next two years. Kurdish rebels said this month that they were suspending their pullout from Turkey into bases in northern Iraq, which was part of the peace efforts, saying Erdogan's government had not made good on promises to enact reforms to improve Kurdish rights.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkey-unveils-reforms-aimed-kurds-20416689**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkey-unveils-reforms-aimed-kurds-20416689)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Typhoon leaves 74 missing in China as Thailand, Vietnam brace for floods**

Seventy-four Chinese fishermen were missing on Monday after a typhoon sunk three fishing boats in the South China Sea as Thailand and Vietnam braced for torrential rain and flooding. The ships were hit by Typhoon Wutip on Sunday as they navigated gales near the Paracel Islands, about 330km from China's island province of Hainan, state news agency Xinhua said, citing sources with the Hainan maritime search and rescue center. Rains from the storm are expected to reach Vietnam on Monday before hitting Thailand on Tuesday. Thai officials warned that more heavy rains could inundate already flood-hit areas of the northeast. At least 22 people have been killed in this year's flooding.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/30/us-asia-storm-idUSBRE98T05L20130930**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/30/us-asia-storm-idUSBRE98T05L20130930)

**Cambodia**

**Flood kills 28, affect 73,600 families**

Floods has killed at least 28 people, including 16 children, and affected 73,600 families in Cambodia in the last two weeks, a disaster control official said Sunday. Some 7,900 families have been forced to flee their houses for higher grounds as more than 62,000 houses, 385 schools and 245 Buddhist pagodas are inundated, Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), said. Ten out of the kingdom's 24 cities and provinces are being hit by the Mekong River and flash floods, he said. "As water still continues to rise, there will be more people affected and evacuated in coming days," he told Xinhua.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/27/c\_132756962.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/27/c_132756962.htm)

**Malaysia**

**Protesters rail against security proposal**

PM Najib Razak's government has proposed amendments to a 1959 crime-prevention act to give police a stronger hand to deal with a wave of violent crime that erupted in recent months. But activists and the opposition have seized on provisions that they say will allow suspects to be held for years without review. They accuse Najib of reneging on an earlier promise to move away from authoritarian rule. Malaysians have been shocked by a recent upsurge in gun violence that police and security officials blame on criminals they say were freed when the EO was scrapped.

**AFP -** [**http://news.malaysia.msn.com/malaysia-news/malaysian-protesters-rail-against-security-proposal-1**](http://news.malaysia.msn.com/malaysia-news/malaysian-protesters-rail-against-security-proposal-1)

**Myanmar**

**Muslims in hiding after sectarian strife flares**

Terrified Muslims hid in their homes in northwest Myanmar on Monday after armed police dispersed a Buddhist mob that torched houses and surrounded a mosque in the latest outbreak of sectarian tension. The situation in the town of Thandwe was precarious after police restored order by firing shots in the air to break up the mob late on Sunday, said two security sources. Thandwe, 260km from the capital Yangon, is in Rakhine state, the worst-hit region. As in several previous bouts of communal unrest, a minor disagreement triggered an outpouring of anger, a local Muslim politician said. "We're now scared and hiding inside our homes, like the previous times," Kyaw Zan Hla, chairman of the Kaman Muslim Party, said, adding that about 200 people had joined the mob, some wearing masks and carrying flaming torches. He said he had himself become embroiled in a row after he objected to a Buddhist man parking a motorcycle in front of his home late on Saturday and rumours spread that he had insulted Buddhism. Police reported no deaths or injuries from the incident in Thandwe, home to an airport used by tourists who visit resorts on the popular Ngapali beach nearby.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/30/uk-myanmar-violence-idUKBRE98T05220130930**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/30/uk-myanmar-violence-idUKBRE98T05220130930)

**Philippines**

**Possible landslides threaten recovery efforts**

Experts in the Philippines are warning of further possible landslides in the north of the country, less than one week after the southwest monsoon rains brought on by Typhoon Usagi displaced more than 100,000 people and left 30 dead. “We’re on the lookout for rain-induced landslides and are currently conducting [a] pre-emptive evacuation in the areas that were most affected when the rains hit,” Graciela Macabare, provincial disaster risk reduction and management officer for Zambales Province, told IRIN. Zambales has experienced nine landslides. Nearly 600,000 people across six provinces [Bataan, Zambales, Rizal, Batangas, Cavite, Occidental Mindoro] have been affected by the heavy rain which began on 23 September, and more than 123,000 remain displaced, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (DRRMC) said on 27 September.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98838/possible-landslides-threaten-recovery-efforts**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98838/possible-landslides-threaten-recovery-efforts)

**Authorities say Zamboanga crisis 'over'**

The National Defense chief of the Philippines said Saturday a three-week long standoff is over between government forces and a Muslim rebel faction they say kept about 200 people as human shields in a southern port city. The Department of National Defense said the crisis in Zamboanga City was over, but troops are continuing operations to remove the last remaining fighters of a Moro National Liberation Front faction. Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Domingo Tutaan said forces were doing a thorough search of marshlands and areas in and around Zamboanga neighborhoods where faction members positioned themselves during the standoff that began September 9.

**VoA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-says-zamboanga-crisis-over**](http://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-says-zamboanga-crisis-over)

**Vietnam**

**Storm Wutip forecast to hit centre**

Tropical storm Wutip, which is estimated to be the strongest storm to hit Vietnam's central region since 2006, is forecast to make a landfall from Vietnam's central Ha Tinh to Quang Tri provinces late Monday afternoon, according to the Vietnam National Hydro-Meteorological Forecast Center. At around 19:00 local time on Monday, the eye of the storm is predicted to hit those provinces' mainland with wind speeds ranging between 90 and 100km per hour, said the center. Coastal provinces from Nghe An to Da Nang in central Vietnam were warned to cope with sea water rising from three to four meters. In the following 24-48 hours, the storm is forecast to move northwest at 15-20km per hour, before fading into a tropical depression.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/30/c\_132763994.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/30/c_132763994.htm)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Eritrea continues to destabilise region, says Ethiopia**

Ethiopia on Friday accused Eritrea of continuing to destabilise the East African region by supporting armed groups and terrorists organisations such as Al-Qaida allied Al-Shabaab. Ethiopia said that President Isaias Afeworki’s government, was still determined to destabilise the volatile east African region indicating the UN Monitoring Group’s report. Addis Ababa argued that Eritrea continues to play a negative role in the region due to the lack of pressure in the implementation of sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against the Red Sea nation.

**Mareeg -** [**http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?Eritrea-continues-to-destabilise-region,-says-Ethiopia&sid=30683&tirsan=3**](http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?Eritrea-continues-to-destabilise-region,-says-Ethiopia&sid=30683&tirsan=3)

**Kenya**

**39 people still missing after deadly Nairobi mall attack**

More than three dozen people remain unaccounted for almost a week after the end of the four-day terrorist attack on Nairobi’s Westgate Mall that killed at least 67, the head of the Kenyan Red Cross said Monday. The Red Cross’ report of 39 missing people conflicts with the government’s contention that there are no remaining missing people from the attack that began 21 September, and suggests that the death toll could still rise as investigators dig through the rubble of the partially collapsed mall.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/kenya-red-cross-cites-progress-in-tracing-missing-people-from-deadly-nairobi-mall-attack/2013/09/30/de3a7ee4-29b1-11e3-b141-298f46539716\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/kenya-red-cross-cites-progress-in-tracing-missing-people-from-deadly-nairobi-mall-attack/2013/09/30/de3a7ee4-29b1-11e3-b141-298f46539716_story.html)

**Somalia**

**Armed men attack government military bases and Kenyan bases in the lower Juba region**

Confrontations between armed men and Somali military allied with Kenyan troops occurred at Kulbiyow sub-district in the lower Juba region of Somalia. Residents confirmed to Shabelle radio that the attackers believed to be members of Al-shabaab fighters attacked a military base manned by Kenyan peacekeeping forces and Somali military soldiers. Heavy gunfire that lasted hours was heard at nearby settlements. In other news armed men attacked another military base located near the Kismayu University which is operated by the Kenyan troops. Somali government troops together with the Kenyan troops fought off the attackers after a slight confrontation which lasted for hours.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201309280032.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201309280032.html)

**South Africa**

**Woman dead as police open fire at protest**

South African police said a woman was shot dead and another injured when officers returned fire after they were "ambushed" during a community protest in Durban Monday. Around 500 protestors surrounded a police vehicle in the city's restive Cato Manor suburb, stoning their van and shattering windows. The officers had been responding to reports that protestors had blockaded a road, police spokesman Jay Naicker said. "Police also heard gunshots emanating from the mob and realised that they were going to be killed. They then fired shots at the group and the suspects fled," he said. He told AFP the two officers had used live ammunition "to protect their lives." Police backup later found one woman killed. Another was injured and taken to hospital.

**AFP -** [**http://za.news.yahoo.com/woman-dead-africa-police-open-fire-protest-112454370.html**](http://za.news.yahoo.com/woman-dead-africa-police-open-fire-protest-112454370.html)

LAC

**Mexico**

**9 killed in 3 apparent drug attacks**

Shootings erupted over the weekend in three Mexican cities where drug gangs are fighting turf battles, killing at least nine people and wounding six more, officials said Sunday. The weekend bloodshed raised fears that drug cartel violence may stir up again in areas where authorities had already applauded a reduction in drug-related homicides. Meanwhile, the gangs continue to plot new ways to take over corridors into the US.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/killed-apparent-drug-attacks-mexico-20413794**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/killed-apparent-drug-attacks-mexico-20413794)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Syria refugee crisis threatens development - UN**

The head of UNDP is warning that Syria's refugee crisis is threatening economic development throughout the region because host countries cannot cope with the influx. Helen Clark told a meeting Monday in Geneva, Switzerland, that the situation not only poses a humanitarian crisis but also threatens economies of neighboring countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey due to its impact on trade, agriculture, tourism, employment and demands on water use. She said that by the end of the year, nearly 25% of Lebanon's population will be made up of refugees. The figure has already reached 10% in Jordan. Clark added that "clearly the costs on host communities and countries cannot be borne by them alone."

**AP -** [**http://www.khou.com/news/world/225787131.html**](http://www.khou.com/news/world/225787131.html)

**Egypt reopens Rafah crossing to Gaza**

Egypt reopened the Rafah crossing with the Gaza Strip after a nine-day closure, an official of the Hamas government reported. The director general of Gaza's only land passage bypassing Israel, said he expected 300 Palestinians to cross from the territory into Egypt by the end of 28 September. Since a July army coup ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi, a member of the Hamas-allied Muslim Brotherhood, Egyptian authorities have repeatedly closed the Rafah border crossing as the military seeks to cleanse the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Gaza, of militants.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130928/egypt-reopens-rafah-crossing-gaza**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130928/egypt-reopens-rafah-crossing-gaza)

**Bahrain**

**Authorities jail 50 for ties to anti-government group - activists**

A Bahraini court sentenced 50 people on Sunday to between five and 15 years in jail for setting up a group that organises anti-government protests, and that authorities say is working to topple the government by force, activists said. Bahrain has seen almost daily protests by members of the Shi'ite majority since February 2011, when it crushed a Shi'ite-led uprising demanding that the Sunni al-Khalifa dynasty give up power. Bahrain's Shi'ites have long complained of entrenched discrimination in areas such as employment and public services, allegations that the Sunni-led government denies.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130929181540-ipyl2/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130929181540-ipyl2/?source=hpbreaking)

**Egypt**

**Gunmen kill 2 policemen in northern Sinai**

An Egyptian security official says gunmen opened fire at policemen in northern Sinai, killing two and wounding a third in the latest attack in the volatile peninsula. The official says the policemen were ambushed on Monday on their way to the police station in the city of el-Arish, the provincial capital of northern Sinai. The official says the assailants fled in their car. A military official says that elsewhere on Monday in Sinai, gunmen opened fire at military checkpoints in el-Arish and in the town of Sheikh Zuweyid, wounding a total of five soldiers and a civilian in those attacks.

**AP -** [**http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/09/30/egypt-gunmen-kill-2-policemen-in-northern-sinai**](http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2013/09/30/egypt-gunmen-kill-2-policemen-in-northern-sinai)

**Students clash as turmoil spreads to campuses**

Rival groups of students, some armed with guns and Molotov cocktails, clashed in Egypt on Sunday, state media and security sources said, as violence triggered by the overthrow of President Mohamed Mursi spread to universities. At least 29 people were wounded in fighting between groups for and against the ousted Islamist leader at least three campuses, said the reports. A security crackdown has severely restricted the Brotherhood's activities and pro-Morsi students have started rallying in campuses, traditional hotbeds of Islamist and political activity. They met their first significant opposition on Sunday when groups supporting and opposing Morsi clashed at Cairo's Ain Shams University, leaving at least 12 wounded, security sources said. Fifteen people were wounded when rival students at Zagazig University, some armed with guns and Molotov cocktails, fought, the state news agency said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE98S0BZ20130929**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE98S0BZ20130929)

**Iraq**

**Wave of car bombs across Baghdad kills 51**

A wave of car bombs struck mainly in Shiite neighborhoods of Bagdad on Monday morning, killing at least 51 people and wounding dozens more, officials said, the latest in relentless violence roiling Iraq in recent months. The country's Interior Ministry blamed al-Qaida-linked insurgents, saying they are exploiting the political infighting and security shortcomings to stage attacks. The deadliest of the day's bombings was in the eastern Sadr City district, where a parked car bomb tore through a small vegetable market and its parking lot, killing seven people and wounding 16, a police officer said. The 10 other explosions also struck at outdoor markets or parking lots, killing 44 people and wounding 139, according to other police officers.

**AP -** [**http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-09-30/iraqi-officials-car-bomb-kills-7-in-baghdad**](http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-09-30/iraqi-officials-car-bomb-kills-7-in-baghdad)

**Bomb attack in Erbil kills six people**

Militants launched a coordinated suicide and car bomb attack on the headquarters of the security services in the capital of Iraq's usually peaceful Kurdistan region on Sunday, killing six people in the first major assault there since 2007. Security forces said the attack began early on Sunday afternoon when they opened fire on a minivan that tried to enter their compound on Sixty Metre road in the capital Arbil without authorisation. Six militants and six members of the security forces were killed and at least 42 others wounded, the authorities said. Security across the city was tight after the attack. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosions, which occurred a day after results of the region's parliamentary elections were announced.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/uk-iraq-kurds-explosion-idUKBRE98S06F20130929**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/uk-iraq-kurds-explosion-idUKBRE98S06F20130929)

**Suicide bomber kills 40 people at mosque**

At least 40 people were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shi-ite funeral in a southern Iraqi town on Sunday. The blast brought down the ceiling of the mosque in Mussayab, 60km south of Baghdad. Police said some bodies were still trapped beneath the debris. At least 50 people were wounded. Those inside had been mourning the death of a man killed a day earlier by militants. It was not immediately clear who was behind the bombing, which is the latest in a spate of attacks targeting both Sunni and Shi'ite places of worship, particularly during funerals.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE98S0AZ20130929**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE98S0AZ20130929)

**Lebanon**

**Deaths reported in checkpoint clash**

At least three people have been killed in clashes in the Lebanese town of Baalbek after armed men opened fire on a checkpoint manned by the Lebanese Shia Muslim group Hezbollah, security sources say. At least one Hezbollah member was killed and two others wounded when the assailants, believed to be from a Sunni Muslim clan residing in eastern Lebanon, opened fire from a car at the checkpoint. Hezbollah members returned fire, killing two men and wounding three, the sources said. Officials said Lebanese troops were trying to enter the area to separate the rival fighters. The incident was the second last week in the eastern Bekaa Valley, a Hezbollah stronghold close to the border with Syria.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/armed-men-open-fire-at-hezbollah-checkpoint-2013928125822292532.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/09/armed-men-open-fire-at-hezbollah-checkpoint-2013928125822292532.html)

**Libya**

**Southern Fezzan region declares autonomy**

Libya’s south-western region of Fezzan declared itself on Thursday an autonomous federal province, Al Arabiya correspondent reported. Nouri Mohammad al-Qouizi was named as the president of the province, according to Libyan media reports. Local tribal leaders said military chief would later be appointed to protect the region’s borders and its natural resources. The tribal leaders also said they took the decision because of the “weak performance of the General National Congress and the lack of response to the demands of the Libyan people in Fezzan.” The move came a month after Cyrenai, in eastern Libya, took a similar step declaring itself also an autonomous federal province.

**AlArabiya -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/26/-Libya-s-southern-Fezzan-province-declares-autonomy.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/26/-Libya-s-southern-Fezzan-province-declares-autonomy.html)

**Sudan**

**Senior official speaks out against crackdown**

A senior official in Sudan's ruling party on Monday spoke out against an "unnecessary" deadly crackdown on demonstrators protesting fuel price hikes, saying the government should have instead encouraged dialogue. "The fact that so many have died points to the degree of violence," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity, in comments that reflect divisions within the governing National Congress Party (NCP). "I believe it was unnecessary to repress the peaceful demonstrators. Peaceful demonstration is a constitutional right." Authorities say 33 people have died since petrol and diesel prices jumped by more than 60% one week ago, sparking the worst protests of President Omar al-Bashir's 24-year rule.

**AFP -** [**http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/latest-news/255158-senior-sudan-official-speaks-out-against-crackdown.html**](http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/latest-news/255158-senior-sudan-official-speaks-out-against-crackdown.html)

**Tear gas fired at women's university protest**

Sudanese police fired tear gas Monday into a university campus where female students were protesting, the university head said on the eighth day of demonstrations sparked by rising fuel prices. Between 150 and 200 Ahfad University for Women students were demonstrating "against the government and things like that," university president Gasim Badri said. He said police did not enter the campus in Khartoum's twin city Omdurman but fired tear gas from outside. There were no injuries and the demonstration had already finished, Badri said. Late Sunday about 1,000 people marched in Khartoum calling for the government's overthrow after a ceremony mourning those gunned down last week during fuel price protests, witnesses said. **AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-30/233063-tear-gas-fired-at-sudan-womens-university-protest.ashx#axzz2gNjPF1GN**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-30/233063-tear-gas-fired-at-sudan-womens-university-protest.ashx#axzz2gNjPF1GN)

**Syria**

**Mortar shell lands near Chinese embassy**

Syria's state-run news agency says three mortar shells have hit the capital, Damascus, one of them landing near the Chinese embassy. An Associated Press reporter at the scene said the shell fell about 100 meters (yards) from the embassy, setting two cars on fire and damaging others. The location was also close to the American Cultural Center, which has been closed for two years. Monday's shelling came days after shells hit the Iraqi and Russian missions in central Damascus.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syrias-assad-vows-comply-resolution-20410779**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syrias-assad-vows-comply-resolution-20410779)

**Air strike kills 16 people in high school**

An air strike on a high school killed 16 people, most of them students and teachers, in a rebel-held city in northern Syria on Sunday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. "The Syrian air force bombed a technical high school in the city of Raqa, killing 16 people, among them 10 students aged under 18, and wounding many others, some critically," said the Observatory, updating an earlier toll. The group posted video footage showing mangled bodies, one lying under schoolbooks. Its authenticity could not immediately be verified. "There was panic, with children crying as they sought to take shelter," the Observatory quoted a survivor as saying. Raqa, on the Euphrates River valley 160km east of Aleppo, is the only provincial capital entirely in rebel hands.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130929/air-strike-kills-16-syria-high-school**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130929/air-strike-kills-16-syria-high-school)

**Attack probe wraps up ahead of disarmament mission**

UN experts wrapped up their investigation of alleged chemical attacks in Syria on Monday, a day before a disarmament team visits to begin inspecting its arsenal of the banned weapons. President Bashar al-Assad has insisted his country will comply with a UN resolution under which his regime must turn over its chemical weapons for destruction. The UN Security Council is to begin talks Monday on a statement about the humanitarian crisis in Syria which could include a controversial call to allow cross-border missions, diplomats said. The six-person team of UN chemical weapons experts, which is on its second mission to Syria to investigate seven alleged attacks, is scheduled to leave the country on Monday. The team has said it hopes to present a final report on the alleged attacks by late October.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gwvpYsvO1v7PPsad1Bw9dKy-zu7Q?docId=7f3e56ce-aef8-4d77-9d71-34bd0c152516**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gwvpYsvO1v7PPsad1Bw9dKy-zu7Q?docId=7f3e56ce-aef8-4d77-9d71-34bd0c152516)

**Tunisia**

**Ruling party accept plan to step down**

Tunisia's government agreed to resign after talks with secular foes to form a caretaker administration and prepare for elections to safeguard the democratic transition in the country. The talks, which could begin this week, aim to end weeks of deadlock between the governing coalition and secular opposition that has endangered prospects for stable democracy. Tunisia's powerful UGTT labor union, mediating between the sides, proposed three weeks of negotiations after which the Ennahda party would yield to a non-partisan administration with a date for parliamentary and presidential elections. "The dialogue will start on 30 September or 1 October," a senior Ennahda party official reported. The UGTT confirmed the agreement and called on both sides to set a time to begin talks this week.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/28/us-tunisia-crisis-idUSBRE98R04720130928**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/28/us-tunisia-crisis-idUSBRE98R04720130928)

**Yemen**

**Gunmen wound officer in president's clan**

Gunmen severely wounded an army colonel from Yemeni President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi's extended family in the restive south on Saturday in an attack blamed by a security official on Al-Qaeda. "Colonel Ali Nasser Dambur was hit by four bullets fired by one of two people on a motorbike in Seyun" in Hadramawt province, the official said. He said the officer was hit in the head and chest and was evacuated by helicopter to Sanaa. Dambur had been behind the wheel of his car at the time of the attack which came as he slowed down on approach to an army checkpoint. The colonel was a supplies officer for an army unit in the southeast.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130928/gunmen-wound-officer-yemen-presidents-clan**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130928/gunmen-wound-officer-yemen-presidents-clan)

**Army base attacked in Al-Qaida-strong region**

Security officials say gunmen have opened fire on the main military base in Yemen's largest province, an area where al-Qaida militants remain active. The officials say several soldiers were wounded in Monday's attack in the province of Hadramawt and that the two sides are engaged in a gunbattle. The officials did not have more details.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemen-army-base-attacked-al-qaida-strong-region-20416705**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemen-army-base-attacked-al-qaida-strong-region-20416705)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Roadside bombs kill 5**

Provincial officials say two separate roadside bomb attacks have killed five Afghan civilians in the eastern and southern parts of the country. Shafiqullah Nang, who is spokesman for the eastern province of Ghazni, said three civilians died Saturday when their minivan was struck by a roadside bomb as they were driving from Dayak district to Ghazni city. He says that another eight people were wounded, including two women and two children. In a second explosion, Fared Ayal, a spokesman for the police chief of southern Uruzgan province, said two men died when their car ran over a bomb on Saturday.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/roadside-bombs-kill-afghanistan-20404876**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/roadside-bombs-kill-afghanistan-20404876)

**Afghans say Taliban take district HQ in North**

Taliban fighters on Sunday overran a district headquarters in a remote and mountainous region of northern Afghanistan, their latest offensive in an insurgent campaign to regain territory as foreign troops withdraw from the country, according to officials. Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said a group of insurgents took over the building after police evacuated the facility in Badakhshan province's Karan wa Munjan district to prevent any civilian casualties. "This year the enemy is trying to show their existence in northern parts of the country and that is one of the reasons that they are attacking Badakhshan province, "Sediqi said.

**AP -** [**http://www.sacbee.com/2013/09/29/5778351/afghans-say-taliban-take-district.html**](http://www.sacbee.com/2013/09/29/5778351/afghans-say-taliban-take-district.html)

**Donors may cut aid over graft, impunity**

International donors will cut funding to Afghan projects unless action is taken to stop rampant graft from going unpunished, the independent Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) warned. "The biggest problem in this country is impunity. People don't see the bad guys are being sanctioned, people do not trust the government," the chairman of the MEC reported at the release of group's six-month report. Most foreign forces are due to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, heightening concerns about security and the international community's ability to monitor development projects. The launch of the MEC in 2011 was hailed as a milestone in the fight against corruption in Afghanistan by the British government, one its sponsors, but progress has been painfully slow.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130928134445-1735e/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130928134445-1735e/?source=hptop)

**Maldives**

**Opposition urges tourist boycott after vote halted**

The Maldivian opposition appealed to foreign holidaymakers Saturday to boycott the upmarket tourist destination as authorities indefinitely postponed a presidential runoff amid mounting international concern. The runoff had been slated for Saturday between human rights activist Mohamed Nasheed and Abdulla Yameen, a half-brother of former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who ruled the Maldives with an iron fist for three decades before the first elections in 2008. "It's mainly the tourism profits that go to finance the suppression of democracy in the Maldives," main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) spokesman Hamed Abdul Ghafoor told AFP. "This is why we appeal to other countries to slap a tourism ban on the Maldives," Ghafoor said as the party extended its protests to resorts in the secluded coral islands with pristine beaches.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hpQ8qQgvdAQxhh1lsHBCu3bPVF9g?docId=5d560b37-15c4-434e-bc6b-e154bd2e45bc**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hpQ8qQgvdAQxhh1lsHBCu3bPVF9g?docId=5d560b37-15c4-434e-bc6b-e154bd2e45bc)

**Pakistan**

**At least 22 dead as powerful new earthquake hits**

A powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit southwest Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 22 people in a region already devastated by a tremor which left more than 300 people dead last week, local officials said. "The death toll is increasing. Rescue workers have so far recovered 22 dead bodies," the top government official in Khuzdar town reported, adding that more than 50 people have been wounded. Officials fear the toll in Saturday’s quake in Awaran, the poorest district in the southwest province of Baluchistan, could still rise further. The new quake struck the remote district at a depth of 14km according to USGS. Relief efforts have at times been thwarted by insurgent attacks on rescue convoys, with local officials admitting that teams have been unable to reach thousands of survivors in the worst-hit areas.

**AFP -** [**http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/19152586/6-8-magnitude-quake-hits-shattered-pakistan-region/**](http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/19152586/6-8-magnitude-quake-hits-shattered-pakistan-region/)

**Car bomb kills 40 people in the northwest**

A car bomb ripped through a crowded street in Peshawar's oldest bazaar, killing 40 people in the third blast to hit the troubled Pakistani city in a week, officials said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The explosion Sunday appeared to have been caused by a bomb planted in a parked car and detonated by remote control, said police officer Zahid Khan. It went off near a mosque and a police station, damaging the house of worship and nearby shops and engulfing many vehicles in flames, police said. At least 40 people were killed and 90 wounded, said Jamil Shah, a spokesman for Lady Reading Hospital, where the victims were taken.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/car-bomb-kills-33-northwest-pakistan-20409844**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/car-bomb-kills-33-northwest-pakistan-20409844)

**Gunmen kill 3 soldiers, injure 2 others in southwest**

Unidentified gunmen have killed at least three Pakistani soldiers and injured two others in Pakistan’s troubled southwestern province of Baluchistan. The attackers killed the soldiers of Pakistan's Frontier Corps in the Proom area of Panjgur district in the early morning, military spokesman Khan Waseeh said on Saturday, adding that "Three soldiers were killed and two other injured." No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but Pakistani officials often blame Baluch separatist groups for such attacks. Some Baloch militant groups say they want greater political autonomy and a share of the natural resources in Baluchistan.

**Press TV -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/09/28/326494/gunmen-kill-3-soldiers-in-sw-pakistan/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/09/28/326494/gunmen-kill-3-soldiers-in-sw-pakistan/)

WCAR

**Cameroon**

**Ruling party expected to win legislative polls**

Cameroon's 5.4 million voters head to the polls Monday for legislative and local polls set to shore up the strong parliamentary majority of President Paul Biya's ruling party. President Biya has been accused of failing to adhere to a regular timetable for elections in order to ensure victory for his own People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) party, which holds the majority of seats in the national assembly and municipal bodies. The polling stations were due to open at 8:00 am (0700 GMT) and close 10 hours later. The country's borders have been closed since Saturday and will remain so until the day after the vote.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130929/cameroons-ruling-party-expected-win-legislative-polls**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130929/cameroons-ruling-party-expected-win-legislative-polls)

**CAR**

**Thousands displaced by fighting need urgent help**

A humanitarian team dispatched to the Bossangoa area of CAR has found devastation and thousands of people in urgent need of assistance following the latest fighting in the troubled region. "We found people in desperate need of assistance, such as food, water, shelter and medical care. They have no food and are sleeping under trees in this rainy season," said Jean-Claude Ndanga, a UNHCR field associate in CAR who was part of the multi-agency team that returned from the area this week. Clashes in the last two weeks between the former Seleka coalition and self-defence groups have forced more than 170,000 people – many of them women and children – to flee their villages in Ouham Pende Prefecture and seek safety in the town of Bossangoa. This was the latest fighting in an internal CAR conflict that has displaced nearly 400,000 people this year, according to UN figures.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/524440346.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/524440346.html)

**Guinea**

**Legislative polls conducted peacefully**

The first of tens of thousands of polling stations across Guinea began to declare their results after an election meant to turn the page on years of political chaos in the nation. Voters chose from more than 1,700 candidates vying for 114 seats in a national assembly which will replace the transitional body that has been running the country since military rule came to an end in 2010. Guinea's election commission announced it would publish "partial and provisional" results on 30 September and 1 October before releasing preliminary results showing the full picture across the country on 2 October. "The counting of votes should not take too long. It has started and polling stations have even started to give their results," an election commission official reported. Under Guinea's election law, the supreme court has to rubber stamp the final results within 10 days of polls closing.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130929/polling-stations-begin-declare-guinea-elections**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130929/polling-stations-begin-declare-guinea-elections)

**Guinea Bissau**

**Elections set, but fight against poverty, instability continues**

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, the transitional President of Guinea Bissau, said that national elections have been scheduled for November 2013, but that the fight against the cycle of poverty and instability continues. Transitional President Manuel Serifo Nhamajo said that he has signed a decree setting 24 November as the date for legislative and presidential elections. “What remains – which is not little – is to ensure the availability of funds to carry out an effective, transparent, and unquestionable electoral process,” he said.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46053&Cr=general+debate&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46053&Cr=general+debate&Cr1)**=**

**Mali**

**Army clashes with Tuareg rebels for second day in Kidal**

Malian troops clashed with Tuareg rebels in the northern desert town of Kidal for a second day on Monday, residents said, after the separatists ended a ceasefire with the new government last week. The fighting began late on Sunday afternoon outside a bank in the centre of Kidal, with both sides accusing the other of firing first. After calm returned overnight, shooting re-started early on Monday morning. The clashes are the latest in a series of attacks in recent days that threaten to derail peace efforts and complicate France's plan to reduce its troop presence in the West African country after a military operation to destroy an Islamist enclave.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130930111452-sn4zr**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130930111452-sn4zr)

**Suicide bomber killed in accidental fireball**

A suicide bomber was killed instantly when he accidentally detonated his explosives belt in Kidal on Sunday, without killing or wounding anyone else, a local government official reported. The incident came after militants carried out two attacks in northern Mali in less than 72 hours, marking an upsurge in violence since the breakdown of peace talks between the government and rebel groups last week. "The bomber was wearing his belt. He did something wrong, the belt exploded, and he was killed on the spot, before he could go on to commit a terrorist attack in the city," an official in the Kidal governor's office said. "There was a big explosion that blew up part of the building the bomber was in." An African military source said the explosion went off in a disused warehouse of the WFP near the Kidal governor's official residence, currently occupied by Tuareg separatist rebels.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/mali-suicide-bomber-killed-in-accidental-fireball-official-425468**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/mali-suicide-bomber-killed-in-accidental-fireball-official-425468)

**Soldiers wounded in grenade attack**

Two men threw hand-grenades at Malian troops in Kidal on 27 September, wounding two soldiers, a local government official reported. “I was in the Malian Solidarity Bank when I saw two turbaned men throw two grenades at Malian soldiers guarding the bank. One grenade exploded. I saw blood on both soldiers,” the official reported.

**AFP -** [**http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/mali-soldiers-wounded-in-grenade-attack-1.1583915**](http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/mali-soldiers-wounded-in-grenade-attack-1.1583915)

**Four killed in suicide bomb attack in Timbuktu**

At least four people were killed and several wounded in a suicide car-bomb attack in Timbuktu on Saturday, the first since Mali's presidential election aimed at ending months of chaos following a Tuareg uprising that led to a military coup. The attack also comes a few days after Tuareg separatists pulled out of a ceasefire agreement and peace process with the new Malian government. Witnesses said the suicide bombers detonated their vehicle near the Malian army camp in Timbuktu, killing both occupants of the vehicle and two passersby.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/28/us-mali-attack-idUSBRE98R0CN20130928**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/28/us-mali-attack-idUSBRE98R0CN20130928)

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iVDopMNqGzj8MpSlem-Vx0AQklXg?docId=c1dd887e-09ec-4d31-abba-088d775b6838&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iVDopMNqGzj8MpSlem-Vx0AQklXg?docId=c1dd887e-09ec-4d31-abba-088d775b6838&hl=en)

**Gunmen attack Malian army in northern town of Kidal**

Gunmen attacked Malian government forces in the northern desert town of Kidal on Sunday, a local official said, three days after Tuareg separatist rebels broke off a ceasefire with the newly elected government. "We are under fire," said regional governor Adama Kamissoko in Kidal, a long-standing centre for the MNLA separatist rebels. "The armed group attacked and the army has responded." A Kidal resident contacted by phone said gunmen had ambushed a group of government troops near a bank in the centre of town but the identity of the attackers was not immediately clear.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130929181841-w0iyz/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130929181841-w0iyz/?source=hptop)

**Nigeria**

**Militants kill 27 in northeast attacks**

Gunmen from Boko Haram killed 27 villagers in two attacks in Nigeria's restive northeast last week, a government official said, as violence continued to flare in the face of an army crackdown on the militants. Six people were killed in an attack in Gamboru, a town close to the Cameroon border in Borno state, the local government chairman reported. He said gunmen returned and killed 21 more civilians. A Borno military source said he thought the attacks were coordinated and confirmed the death toll. Authorities have disconnected phone lines in Borno to try to disrupt Boko Haram's operations, which means it often takes days for news of attacks to reach Maiduguri.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130928195855-5q89z/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130928195855-5q89z/?source=hpbreaking)

**Gunmen kill at least 50 in attack on college**

Suspected Islamist gunmen have attacked a college in north-eastern Nigeria, killing up to 50 students. The students were shot dead as they slept in their dormitory at the College of Agriculture in Yobe state. Casualty figures from the latest attack vary, but a local politician told the BBC that around 50 students had been killed. The politician said two vanloads of bodies had been taken to a hospital in Yobe's state capital, Damaturu. A witness quoted by Reuters news agency counted 40 bodies at the hospital, mostly those of young men believed to be students. The gunmen also set fire to classrooms, a military spokesman in Yobe state, Lazarus Eli, told Agence France-Presse. The college is in the rural Gujba district.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24322683**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24322683)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE98S06120130929**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE98S06120130929)

**Senegal**

**Country seeks French, Chinese help as water crisis hits Dakar**

Senegal has appealed to France and China for help to repair damage to a water pipeline that has deprived much of Dakar of running water for two weeks, triggering pockets of violent protests. The appeal for international help follows repeated local efforts over the last two weeks to repair a pipeline carrying water to Dakar from a water plant at Keur Momar Sarr, 250 km to the northeast. The plant supplies 40% of the water for the estimated 3 million people that live in Dakar and its suburbs. Senegalese engineers have tried and failed to repair the damage several times. The water supply company says the underground pipeline was damaged by wear and tear, though some experts have questioned whether it was maintained properly. Groups of protesters took to the streets last week, burning tyres and demanding water. Some threw stones at security forces, who responded with tear gas.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927124904-rtluf/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927124904-rtluf/?source=hptop)

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