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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Turkey builds wall on Syrian border to stem illegal migration**

Turkey is building a two-meter high wall along part of its border with Syria near an area of frequent fighting to try to stop people from illegally bypassing its checkpoints and prevent smuggling, officials said. Construction workers with excavators began digging foundations in Nusaybin, a border district 10km north of the Syrian town of Qamishli, where Kurds, rebel units and Arab tribes have regularly clashed. "We haven't had border security problems in Nusaybin so far but in that area it's extremely easy for people to cross illegally. It's almost like there is no border," said a government official in Ankara. The wall would span just a fraction of the 900km border, but highlights Ankara's growing concern about the spillover of violence from northern Syria. There had been discussion of a similar wall on another part of the border which would be around 2.5km in length.

**Reuters -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/07/-Turkey-builds-wall-on-Syrian-border-to-stem-illegal-migration.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/07/-Turkey-builds-wall-on-Syrian-border-to-stem-illegal-migration.html)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Aid groups appeal for flood aid for South East Asia**

South East Asian regional aid groups have launched appeals to assist millions of people affected by monsoon flooding made worse by recent typhoons. The flooding has added emphasis to calls by UN agencies for countries to improve disaster preparedness before climate change further influences storm intensities. Monsoon floods across South East Asia have affected more than 3 million people and claimed at least 100 lives, mostly in Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. Aid agencies said central Vietnam's provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa were also still recovering from Typhoon Wutip, which made landfall mid-week. World Vision and the IFRC have launched appeals to assist flood victims.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/appeals-for-flood-aid-for-3-million-people-in-south-east-asia/1763612.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/appeals-for-flood-aid-for-3-million-people-in-south-east-asia/1763612.html)

**Cambodia**

**Flood death toll rises to 39**

Floods from Mekong River and heavy rainfall have claimed at least 39 lives and affected 100,334 families in Cambodia in less than three weeks, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) reported. About 10,000 families have been forced to flee their houses for higher grounds as some 89,200 houses, 533 schools and 291 Buddhist pagodas have been submerged, a NCDM's report said. In addition, approximately 100,000 hectares of rice seedlings are also inundated, the report said. Thirteen out of the kingdom's 24 cities and provinces are being hit by the Mekong River and flash floods, it added.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/03/c\_132770009.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/03/c_132770009.htm)

**China**

**Typhoon Fitow slams into east coast**

Typhoon Fitow slammed into the east coast of China after thousands of people were evacuated to safety and weather authorities issued their highest alert level. The storm, packing winds of up to 151km an hour, made landfall in Fujian province in the early hours, bringing lashing rain and causing widespread blackouts. It was expected to continue northwest but weaken quickly, the National Meteorological Centre said. In Zhejiang province's coastal Cangnan County 574,000 people were evacuated, while in Fujian 177,000 were displaced. Two port workers in Zhejiang's city of Wenzhou went missing and may have fallen into the sea, as authorities were urged to check the safety of dams, reservoirs and chemical plants. The storm also forced the suspension of bullet train services in several cities in Zhejiang, Fujian and Jiangxi provinces, while Wenzhou's airport cancelled 27 flights.

**AFP -** [**http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/10/07/typhoon-fitow-slams-china**](http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/10/07/typhoon-fitow-slams-china)

**Thailand**

**Six people dead in shootout in the south**

Six people including two policemen were shot dead in a fierce gunbattle between Thai security forces and militants, authorities reported, after a raid in the south of the country. The clash broke out after a combined army, police and paramilitary group tried to search a village in Narathiwat, one of the provinces in the south. "It was quite a big gunbattle which lasted a long time," a southern army spokesperson reported. "The dead were on our wanted lists," he said, adding that a further seven suspects with warrants issued for them were also arrested in the raid.

**AFP -** [**http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n316234**](http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n316234)

ESAR

**Burundi**

**Rival political supporters in street battles**

Supporters of rival political parties in Burundi clashed in street battles that left five people seriously wounded, government officials said Monday, the latest tensions in the small central African nation. Youths from the opposition MSD were out running Sunday singing songs supporting their party when they encountered the Imbonerakure youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD, leading to fighting, said Leopold Ndayisaba, administrator of Gihanga, a small town some 20km north of the capital Bujumbura. "Three young people from CNDD-FDD and two from MSD were seriously injured and have been admitted to the hospital," he said, adding that dozens more were less seriously injured. Around 200 men took part in the fight, the majority from the ruling party.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/101198-rival-burundi-political-supporters-in-street-battles**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/101198-rival-burundi-political-supporters-in-street-battles)

**Kenya**

**Mombasa riots after cleric killed**

Four people have been killed in Mombasa during clashes between police and those angered at the killing of a Muslim cleric, the Red Cross says. Seven people have also been wounded during the disturbances, while a church was set alight. The trouble began after Friday prayers when protesters began stoning cars and lighting bonfires as they clashed with police. At least one of those who died of their wounds in hospital had been shot, according to the Kenya Red Cross. Kenya's national crisis centre said three people had died of stab wounds, the AFP news agency reports. Police said they used tear gas to disperse the protesters who also set fire to a Salvation Army church in the Majengo district, a middle-class area of the city, which has a large Muslim population. Local imams reportedly called for calm.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24398548**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24398548)

**Rwanda**

**Government denies M23 child soldier claims as 'ludicrous'**

Rwanda has strongly rejected allegations that it is helping train child soldiers for rebels in the DRC. FM Louise Mushikiwabo said “the idea that Rwanda is associated with child soldiers is just ludicrous," during the BBC's Newsday programme. "We have worked with a number of UN agencies... to basically make sure that children don't belong in the army."

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24424868**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24424868)

**Somalia**

**Al-Shabaab bolsters presence in Barawe**

Somali group al-Shabaab has sent reinforcements to the town of Barawe, where US commandos tried to seize one of its leaders on Saturday, residents said. The residents say about 200 masked fighters have arrived in the coastal town with heavy machine guns. It appears that the raid was targeting a Kenyan Somali known as Abdikadir Mohamed Abdikadir, alias Ikrima. The operation follows last month's attack on a Kenyan shopping centre. Authorities have not formally identified the target of Saturday's failed seaborne raid by US Navy Seals. Residents say the man identified as Ikrima is a senior al-Shabaab leader with responsibility for logistics, who is usually accompanied by about 20 well-armed guards.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24426347**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24426347)

LAC

**Mexico**

**Confirmed cholera cases rise to 77 in central state**

The number of confirmed cholera cases rose to 77 in central Mexico, public health authorities reported, but stopped short of calling it an epidemic. The federal health secretary insisted the outbreak of cholera in the state of Hidalgo was "contained and controlled." "It is under control, we have been working in coordination with state officials to eradicate the risks of contagion," she said during a visit to a hospital in the city of Huejutla de Reyes. One death has been reported, of a patient who also had a history of kidney problems. The Hidalgo State Governor reported that specialists were still searching for the source of the contagion, which he said was water-borne. He said the strain appeared similar to recent outbreaks of cholera in Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

**DPA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_10\_05/Confirmed-cholera-cases-rise-to-77-in-central-Mexican-state-1349/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_10_05/Confirmed-cholera-cases-rise-to-77-in-central-Mexican-state-1349/)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Unknown assailants launch deadly attacks across country**

Unknown assailants have launched a string of deadly attacks across Egypt on Monday. A car bomb hit security headquarters in a southern Sinai town, Egyptian officials said, killing two people and injuring around 50 after, security and medical officials said. In further violence, five Egyptian soldiers were reported killed by gunmen in the northeastern city of Ismailia. The security sources said the gunmen opened fire on the soldiers while they were sitting in a car at a checkpoint near Ismailia on the Suez Canal. The violence continued as unknown assailants fired rocket propelled grenades at communication satellite dishes in Cairo, damaging one, security officials reported. The officials said one of the rockets left a 25 centimetre breach in a satellite dish used for international phone calls. It is not yet known if the attacks are related to protests, in which clashes between rival factions killed 53 people.

**Al Arabiya -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/07/Deadly-violence-rocks-Egyptian-towns-as-death-toll-rises.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/07/Deadly-violence-rocks-Egyptian-towns-as-death-toll-rises.html)

**Death toll rises to 53, streets now calm**

The death toll from clashes in Egypt rose to 53 as calm returned to the streets after one of the bloodiest days since the military toppled Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in July. Traffic flowed normally in central Cairo where thousands of Morsi supporters had battled security forces and army supporters on the anniversary of the 1973 war with Israel. State radio said security forces had regained full control of Egypt. In addition to the dead, the Health Ministry said 271 people had been wounded in the clashes. Most of the casualties were Morsi supporters, security sources said. Further confrontations may shake Egypt this week.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/07/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE99506720131007?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/07/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE99506720131007?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews)

**Iraq**

**Woman caught placing bomb at school as 6 killed**

A guard caught a woman planting a bomb next to a primary school in Iraq on Monday, while attacks elsewhere killed six security forces members, officials said. The woman was trying to place the bomb next to the wall of a school in Madain, south of Baghdad, but was discovered by one of the school's guards, who turned her over to the army with the help of a second guard, an interior ministry official said. The attempted bombing came a day after suicide bombers attacked a primary school and a nearby police station in northern Iraq.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-07/233830-woman-caught-planting-bomb-near-iraq-primary-school.ashx#axzz2h2aTnKGd**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-07/233830-woman-caught-planting-bomb-near-iraq-primary-school.ashx#axzz2h2aTnKGd)

**Suicide blasts kill 33, many of them children**

Deadly attacks in Iraq killed at least 33 people on Sunday, including a dozen children slain when a suicide bomber detonated the explosives-laden car he was driving near their elementary school in the north of the country, officials said. Sunday's blasts began around 9:30 a.m. in the Shiite Turkomen village of Qabak, just outside the town of Tal Afar. The area around the stricken village has long been a hotbed for hard-to-rout Sunni insurgents and a corridor for extremist fighters arriving from nearby Syria. One car bomb in the tiny village targeted an elementary school while children ages 6 to 12 were in class as another struck a nearby police station, Tal Afar mayor Abdul Aal al-Obeidi said. The dead included 12 children, the school principal and two policemen. Another 90 people were wounded, he said. The village is home to only about 200 residents, and part of the single-story school collapsed as a result of the blast, he said. Tal Afar is 420km northwest of Baghdad.

**AP -** [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20131006/ml-iraq/?utm\_hp\_ref=green&ir=green**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20131006/ml-iraq/?utm_hp_ref=green&ir=green)

**Al-Qaida claims rare attacks in north**

Al-Qaida's local branch in Iraq claimed responsibility Monday for a spate of rare suicide attacks last month in the northern, relatively peaceful self-ruled Kurdish region, underlining the terror group's growing strength across the country. The 29 September twin suicide car bombs hit a complex housing the regional Interior Ministry and other security agencies in downtown the capital of the Kurdish region, Irbil, killing at least six Kurdish troops and wounding more than 30 others. The attacks were the biggest since 2007, when a suicide truck bombing hit the Interior Ministry, killing 14 people, and 2004, when a twin suicide attack killed 109.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-suicide-blasts-kill-33-children-20487697**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-suicide-blasts-kill-33-children-20487697)

**UN envoy calls for collective action to end bloodshed**

The top UN official in Iraq called on political, religious and civil leaders to work together with security forces to halt the surge in violence, following a deadly attack in the northern part of the country. “It is their responsibility to ensure that pilgrims can practice their religious duties, that school children can attend their classes, that journalists can exercise their professional duties, and that ordinary citizens can live a normal life, in an environment free of fear and violence,” the Special Representative of the Secretary-General said in a statement.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46200&Cr=&Cr1=.UlIG4IaTzmg**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46200&Cr=&Cr1=.UlIG4IaTzmg)

**Libya**

**At least 15 soldiers killed in attack**

Gunmen killed at least 12 Libyan soldiers in an attack on a checkpoint near the city of Bani Walid, a former stronghold of supporters of Muammar Gaddafi, security officials reported. "The ambush happened on the road between Bani Walid and the town of Tarhouna, where the army had a checkpoint. They came under heavy gunfire. Between 12 and 15 soldiers were killed," reported a spokesperson for the army joint chief of staff. An army officer said that 15 soldiers had been killed and five wounded in the attack, which forced officials to close the main road to Bani Walid. Officials did not say who might be responsible for the ambush. Clan and tribal rivalries, as well as Islamist groups, have flourished in the absence of strong central government and Libya's armed forces cannot fully maintain order.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/05/us-libya-violence-idUSBRE99404620131005**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/05/us-libya-violence-idUSBRE99404620131005)

**US seizes al Qaeda figure indicted in 1998 Africa embassy bombings**

Senior al Qaeda figure Anas al-Liby, indicted by the US for his alleged role in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in East Africa, was captured in Libya by a US team and is in American custody, US officials said on Saturday. Officials said a second US raid in Somalia had failed to capture a leader of the al Shabaab militant group who was the raid's target.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131005231232-u65zv/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131005231232-u65zv/?source=hpbreaking)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) update**

WHO has been informed of an additional six laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in Saudi Arabia. The six new patients are from Riyadh region with ages from 14 to 79 years old, of which three are women and three men. One patient has mild symptoms while the others are hospitalized. Three patients are contacts of previously confirmed cases with MERS-CoV, two are reported to have had no exposure to animals or a confirmed case, and there is no information on exposure of one patient. Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 136 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including 58 deaths.

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\_10\_04/en/index.html**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_10_04/en/index.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Israeli child seriously wounded in West Bank settlement shooting**

A nine-year-old Israeli girl was shot and seriously wounded in a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank in what police said was a suspected Palestinian militant attack. "Our suspicion is that this is a terrorist attack," a police spokesperson said. He said the girl was shot while she was outside in the garden and that security forces were searching in and around the Psagot settlement, where the shooting occurred, near the Palestinian city of Ramallah.

**Reuters -** **<http://www.trust.org/item/20131005200952-flrvw/?source=hpbreaking>**

**Syria**

**UN sees 4 million more Syrians fleeing homes or country in 2014**

The UN expects another 2 million Syrians to become refugees in 2014 and 2.25 million more to be displaced within the country, according to a document. UN agencies are preparing to launch a new appeal for aid to help victims of the conflict. Officials from 10 UN agencies, IOM and 18 other aid groups met in Amman in September to plan their strategy for 2014. "The most likely scenario was perceived to be continuation and escalation of the conflict with increased fragmentation, disruption of essential services and further erosion of coping mechanisms," officials from OCHA told the meeting, according to a summary posted on a UN website. OCHA forecast that up to 8.3 million people, or more than a third of Syria's pre-war population of 23 million, would be in need by the end of 2014, a 37% increase over 2013, including 6.5 million internally displaced people, a 54% increase. The number of refugees was expected to hit 3.2 million by December 2013, 1 million more than now, and rise by an additional 2 million next year, the summary said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/07/us-syria-crisis-refugees-idUSBRE99608N20131007**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/07/us-syria-crisis-refugees-idUSBRE99608N20131007)

**Tunisia**

**Deal brings an end to Islamist government**

Tunisia's political rivals agreed on a timetable for the unpopular Islamist-led ruling coalition to quit and be replaced by a government of independents, aiming to end a festering political crisis. The Islamist Ennahda party and opposition groups in the country that gave birth to the Arab Spring signed a roadmap aimed at creating a new government within three weeks. Saturday's deal, signed in the presence of politicians and media, was brokered to end a simmering two-month crisis sparked by the assassination in July of opposition MP Mohamed Brahmi.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-gears-crisis-talks-104435266.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-gears-crisis-talks-104435266.html)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Pakistan accuses India of killing boy, 2, in Kashmir**

Pakistani authorities accused the Indian army of cross-border shelling that killed a toddler and wounded five other civilians in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. "A two-year-old boy who was wounded in shelling by Indian troops has died at hospital, while five other wounded persons in Kotli district are still under treatment," Masood-ur-Rehman, local administration official said. He said that three women and two men were also injured in the cross-border shelling in village of Rud Karthar on the Line of Control in Kotli district. A Pakistani military official also confirmed the death and injuries to the civilians, saying they were the result of mortar shelling by the Indian forces. Indian and Pakistani forces have exchanged fire many times and killed several people across the heavily militarised de facto border in Kashmir since five Indian soldiers were ambushed and killed on 5 August. Delhi blamed the 5 August killings on the Pakistani army, but Islamabad denied any responsibility and has called for restraint and dialogue.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131004/pakistan-accuses-india-killing-boy-2-kashmir**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131004/pakistan-accuses-india-killing-boy-2-kashmir)

**Afghanistan**

**Children among five Afghans killed in NATO airstrike**

At least five civilians, including three children, were killed overnight in a NATO airstrike in eastern Afghanistan, officials said. The civilians, aged between 12 and 20, were killed while they were out hunting birds in the area of Saracha, a few kilometres from Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, the provincial police spokesperson reported. A NATO spokesperson said he was aware of the airstrike but could not confirm any casualties. "Last night around 11 pm, five civilians aged between 12 and 20 carrying air guns wanted to go hunting birds some eight kilometres from the centre of the city of Jalalabad. They were targeted and killed by a foreign forces airstrike, the provincial police spokesperson reported.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5idFtWrZYZAbLUvZLO-H6PMtQ1ouA?docId=d71c2760-5aa6-4393-8f34-903842e745bc&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5idFtWrZYZAbLUvZLO-H6PMtQ1ouA?docId=d71c2760-5aa6-4393-8f34-903842e745bc&hl=en)

**Norway cuts aid over violence against women, corruption**

Norway will slightly reduce its aid to Afghanistan from next year, signalling to Kabul that it has not done enough to combat corruption and violence against women, the foreign ministry said on Friday. "We are deeply concerned about the widespread violence against women in Afghanistan," Foreign Ministry State Secretary Torgeir Larsen said in a statement. He said the Afghan authorities had failed to submit a report on the problem that they had promised by July. Norway had pledged 750 million crowns ($126 million) a year to Afghanistan through 2017 but will reduce that to 700 million crowns next year because of what it said was Kabul's failure to meet its commitments.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/thomson-reuters/131004/norway-cuts-afghan-aid-over-violence-against-women-corruption**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/thomson-reuters/131004/norway-cuts-afghan-aid-over-violence-against-women-corruption)

**Maldives**

**Pro-opposition TV station set on fire**

Unidentified attackers set fire to the main pro-opposition television network in the Maldives on Monday ahead of a crucial court ruling on whether suspended presidential elections should go ahead, officials said. At least six men stormed the offices of the Raajje television network in a pre-dawn attack and set fire to equipment after assaulting an unarmed guard. "All broadcast equipment, transmission equipment, computer systems fully burnt and destroyed," the station said on its Twitter feed. The Maldivian police force said they were treating the incident as an arson attack.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/television-channel-set-fire-amid-maldives-crisis-20131007**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/television-channel-set-fire-amid-maldives-crisis-20131007)

**Pakistan**

**Bomb kills 6 people in anti-polio drive**

A police officer says a bomb exploded in northwest Pakistan near a vehicle carrying officials taking part in an anti-polio campaign, killing at least six people. A police official says the morning's bomb killed four police officers and two members of a local peace committee riding in the van. He says the bombing happened in the village of Malikhel, outside Peshawar.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-taliban-supporting-pakistani-militants-20485695**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-taliban-supporting-pakistani-militants-20485695)

**Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever update**

From 1 January to 29 September 2013, a total of 77 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), including 15 deaths (case–fatality rate 19.4%) were reported from Pakistan. So far, 48 of these reported cases have been laboratory-confirmed. The laboratory tests have been performed at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad. During the current year, CCHF cases have been reported from all the provinces of Pakistan, including Islamabad. A field investigation was carried out by a joint team of WHO disease surveillance officer and the district health authorities in the affected areas revealed that the majority of the cases had history of contact with animals and animal skins. Some family members of the cases have also been reported to have been infected. So far no transmission has been reported in hospitals that may be associated with health care.

**WHO -** [**http://www.emro.who.int/surveillance-forecasting-response/surveillance-news/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever-in-pakistan-update.html**](http://www.emro.who.int/surveillance-forecasting-response/surveillance-news/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever-in-pakistan-update.html)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Fourteen people killed in clashes**

Fourteen people have been killed in violent clashes between Christians and Muslims in an isolated town in eastern CAR that began last week, police and a senior Catholic official reported. Residents of Bangassou, around 750km east of Bangui, said Seleka fighters had backed the town's Muslims during the clashes, which saw four people killed. "All four of those killed were from the Christian community," Bangassou's Catholic Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre reported. "We're overwhelmed, inundated by thousands of men, women, and children seeking refuge from the fighting at the diocese," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131006140725-ziiya/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131006140725-ziiya/?source=hptop)

**UN chief strongly condemns latest attacks**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned increasing attacks on religious groups in CAR warning that these attacks have the potential to further escalate the crisis in the country. In a statement, his spokesperson said Mr. Ban is “very concerned” about the prevailing situation in the country which he described as “volatile, unpredictable and lawless.” “He is particularly worried about the increasing number of targeted attacks and retaliations against Muslims and Christians, including the most recent incidents on the Bossangoa-Bossembele axis,” the spokesperson said referring to the northwest part of the country.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46202&Cr=Central.UlIG\_IaTzmg**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46202&Cr=Central.UlIG_IaTzmg)

**DR Congo**

**M23 rebels cannot be defeated militarily**

DRC's M23 rebels can only be defeated by political means and not militarily, a member of a UN Security Council delegation visiting the country reported. "Only a political solution is a way out of this situation," France's deputy permanent representative to the UN, reported. "There is no military solution" to the crisis, said Morocco's UN representative, but he added that there was "undeniably a dynamic for peace in DRC and the region." The two diplomats were referring to talks between DRC’s government and the rebels in Kampala, Uganda that resumed last month but then stalled.

**AFP -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/dr-congo-s-m23-rebels-cannot-be-defeated-militarily-un-113100600033\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/dr-congo-s-m23-rebels-cannot-be-defeated-militarily-un-113100600033_1.html)

**President pledges to implement reforms after national dialogue**

DRC's President Joseph Kabila pledged to turn the recommendations from three weeks of national dialogue into policies to tackle the nation's daunting social, institutional and economic problems. The talks in the capital Kinshasa were boycotted by some members of opposition political parties, who said they were denied the opportunity to discuss the validity of Kabila's disputed 2011 presidential election triumph. Closing the meetings, Kabila said he would convene a joint session of the two houses of parliament on Thursday to discuss legislation based on the recommendations, which were not made public.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/05/us-congo-democratic-politics-idUSBRE99408S20131005**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/05/us-congo-democratic-politics-idUSBRE99408S20131005)

**Guinea**

**Ruling party leading in polls: provisional partial results**

Guinea's ruling party is leading in the first parliamentary polls in over a decade, provisional partial results showed, amid calls for the elections to be annulled over "fraud". According to data issued by the Independent National Electoral Commision (CENI), the ruling Rally of the Guinean People (RPG) party has secured 16 out of 38 single-seat constituencies. The main opposition party UFDG has won 12 seats, while the UPR obtained two and the UPG one. In all, 114 seats were up for grabs, with the other 76 seats allotted by proportional representation. But all three opposition parties have called for the elections to be annulled, alleging that the vote had been tarnished by widespread fraud. The opposition coalition claims the polls were marred by a string of irregularities, including ballot stuffing, voter intimidation and minors casting votes.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jRXLvg79ly3-NmucH1LxdA3\_QG-A?docId=ff99e4e9-a6eb-4135-8dea-7f2b9ee49c07&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jRXLvg79ly3-NmucH1LxdA3_QG-A?docId=ff99e4e9-a6eb-4135-8dea-7f2b9ee49c07&hl=en)

**Mali**

**Suspected militant fighters attack Gao**

Armed extremists shell Gao, the main town in the desert north of Mali, a Malian army commander reported, without saying if there were casualties. "The Islamists lobbed shells on the town of Gao from a distance. For the moment I cannot say whether there were victims or not," the general staff officer said. Witnesses confirmed the report. The militants hit Gao with artillery fire, in the first attack on the insurgents' former stronghold in months, city residents, military and local government officials said. "This morning from around 06:30 (0630 GMT) a series of four explosions hit the town. One Malian soldier was wounded and a house was damaged," a municipal official in Gao, treported. He and Gao residents said Islamists had fired mortar bombs from outside the city, though a military official said the explosions had been caused by rockets. French helicopters were patrolling the skies above Gao by mid-morning, and residents said calm had returned to the city.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h7T-DCaO5nSbAp79jLJMLKj3TrHw?docId=d01340f6-ca7e-4172-b81b-c4079c6f517e&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h7T-DCaO5nSbAp79jLJMLKj3TrHw?docId=d01340f6-ca7e-4172-b81b-c4079c6f517e&hl=en)

**Reuters -** **<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/07/us-mali-attack-idUSBRE9960A320131007>**

**Tuareg, Arab rebels resume peace talks with government**

Tuareg and Arab rebels are resuming peace talks with the Malian government, notably about the northern territories where they are fighting for autonomy, 11 days after they walked out of the negotiations, one of their spokesmen reported. The announcement by Ibrahim Ag Mohamed Assaleh, in charge of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad's external relations, after a meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with the Burkinabe President should restart the peace process as violence flares up in Mali's northern regions.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131005/tuareg-arab-rebels-resume-peace-talks-mali-government**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131005/tuareg-arab-rebels-resume-peace-talks-mali-government)

**WFP scales up assistance to combat effects of drought, conflict**

WFP announced it is scaling up its emergency operation in Mali to reach more than 680,000 people, many of whom have been affected by the recent crisis in the country, as well as adverse weather conditions. In northern Mali, WFP increased its emergency school feeding coverage as more schools have re-opened in the Gao and Timbuktu regions. Currently, some 576 schools are being assisted with more than 120,000 students. WFP is also providing supplementary feeding for children under five, pregnant women and new mothers to prevent acute malnutrition. In southern Mali, WFP is providing food assistance to some 160,000 IDPs and host families, as well as vulnerable communities recovering from last year’s drought. The agency also reached 425,000 people with programmes relating to urban and rural development, resilience, health and education.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46187&Cr=+mali+&Cr1=.Uk7yh4asiSo**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46187&Cr=+mali+&Cr1=.Uk7yh4asiSo)

**Nigeria**

**Armed forces clash with militants, 20 people killed**

At least 20 people were killed when Boko Haram attacked a town in northeast Nigeria, triggering clashes with troops stationed there, the military said reported. A spokesperson for the armed forces in northeastern Borno state, which lies at the heart of a four-year-old insurgency, said the militants crept into the town of Damboa in the early hours of Saturday. They killed five worshippers at a mosque as they said their morning prayers, he said. "While they were unleashing their mayhem, troops … engaged the terrorists, killing 15 in the process while others fled," the military spokesperson said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-forces-clash-islamists-20-people-killed-174048963.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-forces-clash-islamists-20-people-killed-174048963.html)

**Senegal**

**Country provides free access to health services for 2.5 million under-five children - UNICEF**

In October 2013, Senegal launched its initiative providing free of charge access to health services to children under five. As many as 2.5 million Senegalese children will benefit from this measure that aims at accelerating reduction in child mortality by 2015, particularly for the poorest. “UNICEF supports all efforts aimed at reducing maternal, neonatal and under 5 mortality through community based high impact interventions. Removing financial barriers in accessing health services means addressing one of the most important bottleneck and will enable the most vulnerable segments of the population to benefit from readily available services,” said Mrs Giovanna Barberis, Representative of UNICEF Senegal. “We welcome and support this initiative of the Senegalese government,” she added. During the first phase, started in October, parents of children aged zero to five will no longer pay for consultations, vaccination and hospitalization at health centers and hospitals. A significant service package will be offered free of charge, including treatment of malaria, pneumonia, diarrheal diseases (with ORS and zinc), severe acute malnutrition and pediatric HIV, in addition to vaccination services. Starting January 2014, other priority child illnesses will be added to the package provided free of charge at health posts, health centers and hospital emergency rooms.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70562.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70562.html)

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