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GENERAL

**Across Regions  
Troubled by civil strife and isolation, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea top 2013 global hunger index**

Nineteen countries have alarming levels of hunger, with Burundi being the worst affected for the second year in a row, followed by Comoros and Eritrea, according to this year's Global Hunger Index. Despite progress in combating global hunger - two years ago, the index had tallied 26 countries with “alarming” or “extremely alarming” hunger levels - 870 million people around the world still go hungry every day. Building the resilience of communities to withstand the worst effects of extreme weather, surging food prices or prolonged political unrest was crucial in helping to prevent the most vulnerable from being exposed to deeper poverty and malnutrition, said the report released on Monday, ahead of World Food Day on 16 October.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131014094652-lwpie/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131014094652-lwpie/?source=hptop)

**Migrant deaths prompt calls for EU action**Italy and Malta have urged European partners to do more to stop a migrant crisis which the Maltese PM says has turned the Mediterranean Sea into a "cemetery" after another boat sank off Sicily, killing dozens more people. The comments came a day after a boat packed with 250 migrants sank in the Mediterranean Sea, killing 34 people, the latest in a string of boat accidents involving migrants trying to enter Europe for a better life.  
**Al Jazeera - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/10/migrant-deaths-prompt-calls-eu-action-2013101361646517233.html>**

**As resistance grows, malaria vaccine raises hopes**

Even as researchers announce that a malaria vaccine could be available by 2015, the threat of resistance continues to grow. Donor funding for malaria has plateaued, and African countries are struggling to finance the scale-up of some crucial interventions. The Sixth Pan African Multilateral Initiative on Malaria, the world's largest conference on malaria, took place in Durban, South Africa, this week, where results from the most clinically advanced trials showed that over 18 months of follow-up, the RTS,S vaccine almost halved the number of malaria cases in young children and reduced by about a quarter the number of malaria cases in infants. WHO has indicated that it may recommend use of the RTS,S vaccine as early as 2015 if EMA regulators back its licence application. It will then be up to African governments to decide whether to introduce the vaccine into their public health systems.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98926/as-resistance-grows-malaria-vaccine-raises-hopes**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98926/as-resistance-grows-malaria-vaccine-raises-hopes)

**AU calls for halt to ICC cases against Kenyan and Sudanese leaders**

African leaders called on Saturday for the prosecutions of Kenya's and Sudan's presidents by the ICC to be halted, amid complaints the body has only ever pursued Africans. An AU summit in Addis Ababa was held to discuss Africa's relations with the court. It said the UNSC should defer the trial of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta under article 16 of the court's Rome Statute, which allows for an initial delay of a year, or it would seek an alternative means of postponement. The AU stance challenges the Hague-based court in its most high-profile case to date – its first trial of a sitting president.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131012174601-cqns4/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131012174601-cqns4/?source=hpbreaking)

CEECIS

**Russia**  
**Over 1,200 people detained in Moscow**Moscow police said Monday they had detained 1,200 people in an anti-migrant raid on a produce market where a riot took place over the weekend after the killing of an ethnic Russian. "About 1,200 people have been taken to the police in the course of a raid on a produce market in Biryulyovo to check their criminal connections," a representative of the Moscow police said. He said it was a "regular preventive raid" checking connections to "any crimes committed in the region." But the spokesman for Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major cases, said separately that police were conducting "a massive search" for a man said to be of non-Russian ethnicity who last week allegedly killed a young local. On Sunday, the wholesale market in Biryulyovo was ransacked by hundreds of protestors who thought the killer was hiding there.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gmSJN2uqJ01LuRbEqdPR19SCzd0Q?docId=893a9383-b8ed-4ae2-91f6-6116ddf1a9c5&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gmSJN2uqJ01LuRbEqdPR19SCzd0Q?docId=893a9383-b8ed-4ae2-91f6-6116ddf1a9c5&hl=en)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Thailand finds 13 dead suspected Myanmar migrants**

Thai police said Sunday that the bodies of 13 people believed to be migrants from Myanmar seeking work have been found off southern Thailand's Andaman Sea coast. Lt. Col. Nirat Chuayjit said that marine police in Ranong province, 580km south of Bangkok, had recovered the bodies of 12 men and one woman, whom they believe were on a boat that broke up in bad weather Wednesday as they sought to travel illegally to Thailand. Nirat said it was unknown how many people from the boat might be missing or survived, but that such boats normally carry about 30 people. Survivors would be unlikely to contact Thai authorities for fear of the legal consequences of trying to enter the country illegally, he said.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thailand-finds-13-dead-suspected-myanmar-migrants-20556007**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thailand-finds-13-dead-suspected-myanmar-migrants-20556007)  
  
**Myanmar  
Despite ceasefire talks, no end in sight for displaced Kachin**More than 100,000 Kachin people, according to UN estimates, remain displaced in Kachin and northern Shan State due to the ongoing conflict between the Burma Army and the KIO. The Kachin were forced to flee their villages after a 17-year-old ceasefire broke down in June 2011. Since mid-February the fighting has quieted down and President Thein Sein’s chief negotiator Aung Min, who met with the KIO for talks this week, has said that a full ceasefire with the KIO would be reached soon. But displaced villagers told The Irrawaddy during a recent visit to Myitkyina that they do not see themselves being able to return to their abandoned homes any time soon. IDP camps in rebel-controlled areas, where a majority of the Kachin have taken shelter, receive very little international support as the Burma government restricts aid supply to these parts.  
**Irrawaddy - <http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/despite-ceasefire-talks-no-end-sight-displaced-kachin>**

**UNICEF launches peace-building education initiative**  
In response to on-going waves of inter-communal violence across Myanmar, UNICEF this week launched ground-breaking peace and reconciliation initiatives for Myanmar’s children with a 5 day workshop on peace-building through education. The workshop – conducted with the Ministry of Education – recognises peace and reconciliation is the most important issue facing Myanmar today and will lead to the dissemination of literature nurturing children’s ability as peace agents. In a significant demonstration of acceptance, harmony and solidarity, the workshop brought together 70 Myanmar participants from 11 ethnicities and 5 religions including representatives from government, civil society, the arts, and the media.   
**UNICEF - <http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/unicef-launches-peace-building-education-initiative-preparing-myanmar-children-say-no>  
  
Philippines  
New typhoon may hit after typhoon Nari's death and destruction**Another typhoon is brewing in the Pacific Ocean and might threaten the Philippines, officials reported as clean-up efforts continued in the north of the country after Typhoon Nari killed 13 people. Nari flooded farmland and destroyed thousands of houses in provinces north of Manila before blowing away in the South China Sea. Government forecasters said the new typhoon, with maximum winds of 140 km/h and gusts of up to 170 km/h, would probably spare the country if it does not veer away from its current course. Nari was the 19th of the more than 20 storms expected to batter the Philippines this year.  
**AP -** [**http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1330868/philippines-begins-clean-operation-after-typhoon-nari**](http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1330868/philippines-begins-clean-operation-after-typhoon-nari)

**At least 13 people dead, millions without power as typhoon hits**

Officials in the Philippines are saying at least 13 people are dead in the wake of a powerful typhoon that swept through the northern part of the country. Officials say Typhoon Nari slammed into the east coast, toppling trees and electric pylons, and dumping heavy rain across the rice-growing central plains of Luzon. Local authorities say the storm cut electricity to more than 2 million people. Thousands of people were evacuated from coastal villages before the typhoon struck.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/typhoon-kills-5-in-philippines/1768265.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/typhoon-kills-5-in-philippines/1768265.html)

**Vietnam  
Thousands evacuated ahead of typhoon**Vietnam began evacuating more than 180,000 people on Monday from coastal areas in the path of Typhoon Nari, which killed 13 people and caused widespread damage in the Philippines over the weekend. The storm is expected to hit the central Vietnamese coast early Tuesday with sustained winds of up to 133kph, causing possible flooding and damage to property. Officials said they planned to evacuate 180,000 residents from 6 central provinces to schools and public buildings before nightfall Monday.   
**AP -** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/10/14/3688456/thousands-evacuated-in-vietnam.html**](http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/10/14/3688456/thousands-evacuated-in-vietnam.html)

ESAR

**Ethiopia  
Bomb blast in capital kills 2**  
A bomb blast in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa killed two people on Sunday, state radio said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, but Ethiopia says it has thwarted plots of attacks in the past two years and blames rebel groups based in the south and southeast, as well as Somalia's al Shabaab insurgents. "A bomb blast occurred at a residential house in the Bole district and killed two unidentified individuals," a report on national radio said, quoting the National Security and Intelligence Service. The explosion occurred in the city's upscale Bole district, about 5km from a soccer stadium where thousands of fans were queuing for tickets to a World Cup qualifier game.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-ethiopia-blast-idUSBRE99C0CK20131013**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-ethiopia-blast-idUSBRE99C0CK20131013)

**Somalia**

**AU seeks beefed up force to fight Shabaab**

The AU on Friday endorsed a move to boost its Somalia force by 35% to step up its fight against Al Qaeda-linked shabaab. AMISOM will be boosted by 6,235 troops, taking the total number to 23,966, the AU's Peace and Security Council said in a statement. The request must be approved by the UNSC before fresh forces are deployed. The decision comes in the wake of last month's deadly attack in a Nairobi shopping centre which was claimed by the Shabaab. The AU said "renewed efforts" were needed to fight the Shabaab in Somalia, and that it was deeply concerned by "the serious threat that Al-Shabaab continues to pose in Somalia and in the region."

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131011/african-union-seeks-beefed-somalia-force-fight-shebab**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131011/african-union-seeks-beefed-somalia-force-fight-shebab)

LAC

**Colombia  
Peace talks stall, tension mounts**The Colombian government and left-wing FARC rebels ended a 15th round of peace negotiations on Sunday trading accusation over responsibility for the slow pace of the talks and for the first time failing to issue a joint statement on their progress. Polls in Colombia show the population is tiring of the talks, which have dragged on for 11 months with only a partial accord on agrarian reform, the first point of a six-point agenda. The parties currently are negotiating on the rebels' future political participation and still have before them the issues of reparations to war victims, the narcotics trade, ceasing hostilities and implementing the agreement. The Colombian government wants a peace accord by the November start of a national electoral cycle, a deadline both parties and observers now say will not be met and may complicate the talks. That process concludes with a presidential vote in May.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-colombia-peace-idUSBRE99C08O20131013?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-colombia-peace-idUSBRE99C08O20131013?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**FARC guerrillas bomb railway of top coal miner Cerrejon**  
Colombia's biggest coal producer, Cerrejon, said a bomb attack on its railway on Sunday partially derailed a train carrying coal to port and damaged the track, but exports would continue as normal using stocks held at its privately-owned port. The early-morning attack, which a military source told Reuters was carried out by the country's main rebel group, the FARC, was the latest in a spate of explosions in the last week blamed on the guerrillas and targeting oil and gas pipelines. The FARC and their smaller counterpart, the ELN, regularly attack infrastructure in the energy sector in protest at the presence of foreign companies whose activities they say do not sufficiently benefit the Colombian population.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-colombia-cerrejon-railway-idUSBRE99C09K20131013?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-colombia-cerrejon-railway-idUSBRE99C09K20131013?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Guatemala**

**Violence takes lives of 11 women in past 24 hours**

Eleven women have died violently in several attacks over the past 24 hours in Guatemala, authorities reported. The National Civil Police, or PNC, reported that 10 women died in three different armed attacks around the country and the body of a woman who had disappeared was located bearing marks of violence. According to government figures, so far this year some 600 women have been murdered in Guatemala, 16% more than during the same period in 2012.

**EFE -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/131013/violence-takes-lives-11-guatemalan-women-past-24-hours**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/131013/violence-takes-lives-11-guatemalan-women-past-24-hours)

MENA

**Across MENA  
Al-Qaeda chief blames Islamists for setbacks**

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri on Friday said moderate Islamists in Egypt and Tunisia were in part responsible for their recent political setbacks, accusing them of having been too conciliatory. A 16-minute audiotape of Zawahiri released on jihadist forums focused on his native Egypt, where he said military-backed authorities were waging war on Islam at the behest of Israel and the US. Zawahiri said the increasingly violent conflict between Morsi's Islamist backers and security forces was a "conflict against Islam, a conflict against sharia (Islamic law), a conflict against admitting the right of the Lord ... in legislation," according to a translation by the US-based SITE Monitoring Service. He called on Egyptian Muslims to "rid Egypt of this criminal gang that jumped on power with iron and fire and took advantage of the concessions of some factions in their drooling behind the mirage of the delusional reconciliation," in an apparent reference to the Brotherhood.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j2y1gPZnCOpCPSdo6WgNJ-1DOu3w?docId=6d4c89aa-2131-463c-9a0d-731ac7694910**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j2y1gPZnCOpCPSdo6WgNJ-1DOu3w?docId=6d4c89aa-2131-463c-9a0d-731ac7694910)

**Egypt**

**At least 12 migrants dead in boat capsize**

At least 12 migrants have drowned and some 116 were rescued after their boat capsized near the Egyptian port of Alexandria, security officials said. The boat sank early on 11 October. The survivors, mostly Palestinians and Syrians, were taken to a naval base.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24496737**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24496737)

**Iraq**

**Attacks across country kill at least 42 people**

A string of bombings Sunday across Iraq, many in Shiite-majority cities, killed at least 42 people and wounded dozens, officials said, a grim reminder of the government's failure to stem the uptick in violence that is feeding sectarian tensions in the country. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest attacks, but waves of bombings are frequently used by al-Qaida's Iraq branch. The deadliest of Sunday's attacks, many of which struck busy commercial areas, happened in the southern city of Hillah, 95km south of Baghdad. Back-to-back car bombings hit an outdoor market there, killing eight people and wounding 22, police said.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-attacks-iraq-kill-36-20558404**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-attacks-iraq-kill-36-20558404)

**Libya**

**PM says kidnapping was bid to topple government**

Libya's PM Ali Zeidan said on Friday gunmen who abducted him briefly were part of a coup attempt by opponents in the country's legislature. The militia snatched Zeidan from the Tripoli hotel where he lives during a dawn raid on Thursday only to release him hours later. Shortly before Zeidan spoke car bombs exploded in front of the Swedish consulate and a mosque in Benghazi in the east, which is being hit by a wave of violence. He accused unnamed members of the General National Council, the country's national assembly, of being involved in the abduction.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131011191338-isf2z**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131011191338-isf2z)

**State of Palestine  
Israel freezes shipments of supplies to Gaza after tunnel discovery**

Israel froze the shipment of building materials into Gaza after discovering a sophisticated "terror tunnel" into the Jewish state from the Palestinian territory, a defence official said. "Due to security reasons, (the army) decided to stop for now the transfer of building materials into Gaza," he reported. The spokesperson for the Israeli Defence Ministry unit responsible for civilian affairs in the Palestinian territories, did not say how long the ban would remain in force.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/israel-freezes-shipments-supplies-gaza-after-tunnel-discovery-20131014**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/israel-freezes-shipments-supplies-gaza-after-tunnel-discovery-20131014)

**Sudan**

**Three Senegalese peacekeepers killed in Darfur**

Attackers swooped on a UN water convoy in Darfur region on 13 October, killing three Senegalese peacekeepers, the UN reported. It was the second deadly attack on UNAMID in three days and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called on the Sudanese government to act over the incidents. The peacekeepers were escorting a water convoy from the town of El Geneina to the UN mission's regional headquarters in West Darfur when they were ambushed, UNAMID said in a statement.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jGQyt9lAKBmJu4RzbDt7-OVw9MLA?docId=41799c5a-a4ed-4825-92e6-bd42ea184e7f&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jGQyt9lAKBmJu4RzbDt7-OVw9MLA?docId=41799c5a-a4ed-4825-92e6-bd42ea184e7f&hl=en)

**UNSG Ban voices sadness at death of UN-AU military observer**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced his sadness after a Zambian military observer of the joint UN-AU peacekeeping mission died in an attack by unidentified armed assailants. In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban condemned the deadly attack and said he expected the Government of Sudan to take “swift action” to bring the perpetrators to justice. The military observer died after an attack in El Fasher, North Darfur.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46257&Cr=Darfur&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46257&Cr=Darfur&Cr1)

**Syria**

**Suicide bombing targets state-TV**

Two suicide car bombers detonated booby-trapped cars near the Syria's state-TV headquarters in Damascus, causing property damage and interrupting the broadcast of a channel, the Syrian State News Agency reported. The cars were detonated 20 meters away from a traffic light adjacent to the left fence of the headquarters, Syrian State Television said, adding that some passersby were wounded.

**Xinhua -** [**http://english.cntv.cn/20131014/100925.shtml**](http://english.cntv.cn/20131014/100925.shtml)

**ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent team abducted in Idlib**

Six ICRC staff members and one Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) volunteer were abducted by unidentified armed men near Sareqeb in Idlib Governorate, in north-western Syria. The team had travelled to Idlib on 10 October to assess the medical situation in several Idlib Governorate health structures and to deliver medical supplies to Sarmin and Idlib city. The convoy, which was on its way back to Damascus, was clearly marked with the ICRC emblem.

**ICRC -** [**http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2013/10-13-syria-team-abducted-idlib.htm**](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2013/10-13-syria-team-abducted-idlib.htm)

**Damascus mortar fire hits near UN inspectors' hotel, kills child**

Mortar rounds struck about 1,000 feet away from the hotel of UN staff and chemical weapons inspectors in Damascus, according to media reports. The blasts killed an 8-year-old girl and injured 11 people in Abu Roumaneh near Dar al-Salam School, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported. A UN employee reported that the hotel where inspectors are staying did not appear to have been damaged in the attack, and that it was still open for business.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/middle-east/131012/damascus-mortar-fire-hits-near-un-inspectors-hotel-kills-ch**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/middle-east/131012/damascus-mortar-fire-hits-near-un-inspectors-hotel-kills-ch)

**Key opposition group refuses Geneva peace talks**

A key group within the Syrian opposition National Coalition said Sunday it would not attend proposed peace talks in Geneva and would quit the Coalition if it participated. "The Syrian National Council, which is the biggest bloc in the Coalition, has taken the firm decision... not to go to Geneva, under the present circumstances (on the ground)," Council president George Sabra, told AFP. "This means that we will not stay in the Coalition if it goes" to the peace talks in Geneva, he added. He invoked the ongoing suffering of Syrians on the ground and said his group would not negotiate before the fall of the regime.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hX0lBc1-eWbiUKq9\_8nLwjrf0Eyg?docId=7fa1d9c4-19c1-40bc-9b80-546da9e2102d&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hX0lBc1-eWbiUKq9_8nLwjrf0Eyg?docId=7fa1d9c4-19c1-40bc-9b80-546da9e2102d&hl=en)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Suicide bomber kills two Afghan police**

A suicide bomber killed two policemen Saturday when he slammed an explosives-laden car into a police headquarters in east Afghanistan, underlining the country's instability as US Secretary of State John Kerry visited Kabul. The bomber drove the car into the gates of the police headquarters in Jalalabad city. Two policemen were killed and eight others including a traffic officer were wounded in the attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Saturday's attack, which came as President Hamid Karzai and Kerry held a second day of talks in Kabul.

**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/12/world/asia/afghanistan-suicide-attack/**](http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/12/world/asia/afghanistan-suicide-attack/)

**Two kidnapped boys among 16 dead in weekend Taliban attacks**

Nine Afghans, including two children kidnapped days earlier, have been found dead in eastern Afghanistan, apparent victims of Islamist militants, Interior Ministry officials reported Sunday. The two children, ages 8 and 10, were abducted by Taliban militants last week after heading to the village of Maidan in Kunar to sell livestock at a bazaar. The act of selling in the village led to allegations that the boys had been in contact with government officials, perhaps prompting their kidnapping, the ministry stated. Also, in neighbouring Nuristan province, seven civilians were killed and nine others, including two police, were injured in a missile attack fired by the Taliban, the ministry said.

**DPA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_10\_13/Afghanistan-Two-kidnapped-boys-among-16-dead-in-weekend-Taliban-attacks-2685/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_10_13/Afghanistan-Two-kidnapped-boys-among-16-dead-in-weekend-Taliban-attacks-2685/)

**India**

**Millions need aid after cyclone batters coast, say aid agencies**

Millions of people in eastern India need relief and rehabilitation after the most powerful storm to hit the country's coast in 14 years destroyed their homes and livelihoods, aid agencies said on Monday. Cyclone Phailin made landfall from the Bay of Bengal on Saturday night, bringing winds of more than 200km per hour, 3 metre-high tidal waves and thrashing rains to Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states. At least 15 people have died. While India has successfully minimised the death toll through mass evacuations ahead of the storm, authorities now face the challenge of ensuring survivors get adequate support in the aftermath, say aid workers. "While reports of casualties are low, we shouldn’t underestimate the scale of this disaster. There are millions of people who will need support to rebuild their homes and livelihoods," said John Shumlansky, India country representative for Catholic Relief Services. Before the storm struck, Indian officials had estimated up to 12 million people living in the Phailin's path would be affected. There has been no official figure since.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131014085154-1jg9b/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131014085154-1jg9b/?source=hpagehead)

**Outrage as temple stampede toll rises to 109**The death toll from a stampede among Hindu pilgrims in India rose to 109 Monday as outrage mounted over safety at the festival which was also the scene of a similar tragedy seven years ago. Rescue workers toiled through the night to recover the bodies from a bridge in the town of Ratangarh and from the water below where many people leapt to their death in a bid to avoid the crush. Police said the panic had been sparked by rumours that the bridge was about to collapse. Witnesses said the situation was then exacerbated by police wading into the crowds with baton sticks, a charge denied by police. PM Manmohan Singh led the condolences for the victims, which reports said included 31 women and 17 children. Up to 400,000 devotees were already inside or around the temple, which is about 350km north of the state capital Bhopal, when the stampede took place.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/10/outrage-in-india-as-temple-stampede-toll-rises-to-109/**](http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/10/outrage-in-india-as-temple-stampede-toll-rises-to-109/)

**Pakistan**

**Quake hits southwest**

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Pakistan, meteorological officials said, with tremors felt in some of the areas ravaged by a deadly quake in September. The earthquake struck at a depth of 1 km, and its epicentre was 80km southwest of Khuzdar in Baluchistan province, a senior meteorologist reported. Another meteorlogist said that the tremors were felt in Khuzdar, and towns in Awaran and Kharan. No loss of life or property was immediately reported.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131012/quake-hits-southwest-pakistan**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131012/quake-hits-southwest-pakistan)

WCAR

**Across WCAR  
Everyday life remains a struggle for people fleeing Nigeria**

Since May of this year, several thousand people have fled danger and violence in the states of Borno and Yobe, in Nigeria, to take refuge in the Diffa area, in Niger, some 1,300km from Niamey, or in Cameroon or Chad. Every day, the ICRC registers new people arriving. For six months, the Red Cross Society of Niger and the ICRC have been distributing monthly food rations to around 6,000 people. In addition, some 350 families have been given household essentials such as tarpaulins, kitchen supplies, mosquito nets and blankets.

**ICRC -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131009091938-mwh7l/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131009091938-mwh7l/)

**CAR**

**France pledges more troops**

France's foreign minister pledged more troops during a visit to the CAR but also warned the coup leader there to stick to his own promise of free polls in early 2015. Laurent Fabius travelled to Bangui with Europe's top aid official to boost his campaign for increased international involvement in efforts to end the chaos that has engulfed the country this year. Diplomats have reported that France could boost its contingent to up to 1,200 troops, in support of a small pan-African peacekeeping force deployed in the country.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131013-france-pledges-more-troops-central-africa**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131013-france-pledges-more-troops-central-africa)

**Authorities arrest rogue ex-rebel commander**

Government forces in CAR have arrested a rogue ex-rebel commander, the justice minister said Friday, as Bangui tries to clamp down on warlords. Since Michel Djotodia seized power in a March coup, some ex-rebels from his now-dissolved Seleka group have integrated the regular army but others went rogue and have been sowing terror. "Seven criminals, led by a so-called colonel going by the name of Mahamat Amine and who had emerged from the bush in Damara, were detained by our security and defence forces," Justice Minister Arsene Sende said. On the same day, another ex-Seleka warlord known as "Colonel Abdallah" who had been ruling over the eastern town of Bangassou was arrested together with four of his lieutenants and transferred to Bangui, officials said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131011/cafrica-arrests-rogue-ex-rebel-commander**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131011/cafrica-arrests-rogue-ex-rebel-commander)

**Violence kills six people south of Bangui**

Government forces in CAR clashed with a vigilante group which has been targeting Muslims, killing six of its members, the military reported. "Clashes broke out between security forces sent from Bangui to Bomboro in the south, and the 'anti-balaka' self-defence group," an army official reported. The official said the fighting left six dead among the ranks of the vigilante. The anti-balaka ("anti-machete" in the local Sango language) was formed by local residents exasperated by the abuses committed by members of the ex-rebel Seleka group. The army official said the embattled central government responded to growing concern by Bomboro residents over the vigilante's activities by dispatching troops.

**AFP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Central-Africa-violence-kills-six-20131012**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Central-Africa-violence-kills-six-20131012)

**DR Congo**

**Mission chief condemns rebel attack on unarmed UN helicopter**

The head of the UN peacekeeping operation in the DR Congo condemned an armed rebel attack on a UN helicopter carrying out a reconnaissance mission in the skies above the eastern region. “This afternoon, an unarmed MONUSCO helicopter came under direct fire from positions held by the M23 rebel movement in the Rumangabo region,” the mission said in a statement. The Head of MONUSCO, further said: “M23 rebels will not prevent us from using the Congolese air space. We shall continue doing all in our power to defend civilian populations including by using force if necessary.”

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46253&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46253&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo)

**Guinea**

**UN voices concern over delay to election result**

The UN called upon Guinea's electoral commission to publish results of 28 September election aimed at completing a transition to democracy, saying it was concerned over the delay. Disputes over a published partial count have held up the final result and raised fears of a resurgence of violence that killed about 50 people before the vote. The opposition is calling for the election to be annulled, dampening hopes for an end to years of instability since a 2008 military coup. The UN and representatives of donor nations that brokered a deal with the opposition to end protests and allow the legislative vote said they were concerned by delays in the publication of the results.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-guinea-election-un-idUSBRE99C0CE20131013**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/13/us-guinea-election-un-idUSBRE99C0CE20131013)

**Liberia**

**Despite reforms, corruption rife among police**

A decade of efforts to reform the Liberia National Police (LNP) has resulted in an increasingly professional police force, yet abusive behaviour, a culture of impunity, and endemic corruption continue to erode the force’s credibility, according to researchers. As a result, many Liberians fear the LNP rather than depend on it for protection.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98924/despite-reforms-corruption-rife-among-liberian-police**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98924/despite-reforms-corruption-rife-among-liberian-police)

**Mali**

**At least 43 people dead, dozens still missing after boat accident on Niger River**

The boat was headed from the central port of Mopti to the town of Timbuktu, packed full of people travelling ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha this week. Passengers on the capsized boat said they believed hundreds of people were on the overladen vessel when it sank. The accident took place near the village of Koubi, about seven km from Konna. Authorities said 210 survivors had been registered, leaving dozens missing. A total of 43 corpses had been recovered from the river since the accident, reported a local official.

**AP -** [**http://globalnews.ca/news/900455/43-dead-dozens-still-missing-after-mali-boat-accident-on-niger-river/**](http://globalnews.ca/news/900455/43-dead-dozens-still-missing-after-mali-boat-accident-on-niger-river/)

**Mauritania**

**Desert locust outbreak update**

An outbreak of desert locust is developing in the Aguilal Faye area east of Nouakchott where locust densities are increasing and have reached up to 40,000 adults/ha (4/sq. m). Breeding conditions remain favourable and mature solitarious and transiens adults have started to form a few small groups and lay eggs. Other infestations are present in the centre and northwest between Tidjikja, Atar and Tasiast. So far, ground teams have treated 145 ha. More groups are expected to form in the coming weeks.

**FAO -** [**http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html**](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html)

**Niger**

**Malnutrition kills 362 children across country**

A UN report says over 360 children under the age of five have died of malnutrition in Niger during first nine months of this year. OCHA in Niamey said the young children died between January and September this year in Zinder region. “According to the last epidemiological report on the situation in Zinder, there were 79,087 cases of acute severe malnutrition in children under the age of five, of which 362 had died between 1 January and 23 September” OCHA said in a report. Malnutrition, mild or acute, is present in all eight regions of Niger.

**Press TV -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/10/12/329040/malnutrition-kills-over-360-kids-in-niger/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/10/12/329040/malnutrition-kills-over-360-kids-in-niger/)

**Thousands protest against Arlit mining**

Thousands of residents of the mining town of Arlit in Niger took to the streets to protest against uranium mining company and support a government audit of the company's operations in the nation. Around 5,000 demonstrators marched through Arlit chanting slogans against the mining company before holding a rally in the city centre, participants and protest leaders said. Arlit residents complain they have benefited little from the local mining industry.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/12/niger-areva-protest-idUSL6N0I20H220131012**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/12/niger-areva-protest-idUSL6N0I20H220131012)

**Sierra Leone**

**Authorities suspends paper over Al-Shabaab report**

Sierra Leone's media commission has suspended a newspaper for reporting that the Islamic extremist rebels of al-Shabaab were planning to attack a main government building. In a statement Sunday, the Media Commission said the newspaper, Watchman, would be suspended for one month over Friday's front-page report headlined "Al-Shabaab to Attack Youyi Building." It said the report created "panic" among employees of ministries housed in the building. Last week, Sierra Leone bolstered security at government buildings because of the threat posed by al-Shabaab.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sierra-leone-suspends-paper-al-shabab-report-20558187**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sierra-leone-suspends-paper-al-shabab-report-20558187)

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