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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Aid groups call for radical change to deal with rising crises**

International aid agencies responding to major disasters are missing chances to improve the way they help survivors by failing to partner with local organisations, says a report by some of the biggest names in aid. The study calls for a radical shift in the way aid operations are organised, saying the current system will not be able to cope with the expected rise in increasingly complex emergencies. "Local and national organisations play a crucial part in saving lives and rebuilding communities after disasters, but are too often sidelined by the international humanitarian system,” Christian Aid’s Alexander Carnwath, who managed the research, said in a statement. “This research provides strong evidence of the benefits they bring following emergencies and calls for a fundamental change to the humanitarian system, to strengthen their role."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131104145745-1mwv2/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131104145745-1mwv2/?source=hpeditorial)

**DR Congo/Rwanda**

**DR Congo army to attack Rwandan rebels 'imminently': government**

The army in the Democratic Republic of Congo will attack Rwandan Hutu rebels based in the east of the country "imminently", government spokesman Lambert Mende said Tuesday. "There is no more place in our country for any irregular group," Mende said, adding that the newly defeated M23 rebels "were top of the list. They have been replaced by the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda). We are going to get on with disarming them."

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/DR-Congo-army-to-attack-Rwandan-rebels-imminently-Government/articleshow/25269677.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/DR-Congo-army-to-attack-Rwandan-rebels-imminently-Government/articleshow/25269677.cms)

**DR Congo/Uganda**

**Fresh fighting triggers new Congolese refugee inflow to Uganda**

Fresh fighting has erupted between Congolese government troops and rebel fighters in North Kivu province, forcing an estimated 10,000 people to flee in panic across the border into south-west Uganda's Kisoro district. UNHCR staff in Uganda reported shelling early Monday morning of the border crossing town of Bunagana, which troops of the DRC had seized from the rebel M23 movement last Wednesday. As the shelling increased some missiles landed in Uganda and many locals moved to safer areas. Refugees reported seeing people dead. Around 10,000 people are estimated by Ugandan authorities to have fled into Uganda – running along the roads in fear and panic, with some bringing possessions and livestock and others carrying nothing. The fighting was believed to be about five kilometres away and later on Monday, security officials said, Bunagana was empty of civilians.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/5277e9a86.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/5277e9a86.html)

**South Sudan/Sudan**

**Misseriya youth back down on counter-referendum in Abyei**

A Misseriya youth group on Sunday backed down on previous statements, saying they now had no intention of organising a counter-referendum in the disputed area of Abyei similar to that of the Nogk Dinka. The National Youth and Student Organisation for Abyei (NYSOA) announced on the 29 October that they had started preparations to hold a plebiscite open to all the ethnic groups in Abyei in a bid to prove that the majority of its residents are in favour of remaining in Sudan. However, NYSOA spokesperson Hamad Sidiq, who was speaking on a talk show about Abyei on Ashorooq TV on Sunday, stated they had no intention of conducting an unofficial and unilateral vote like the Ngok Dinka.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48679**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48679)

CEE/CIS

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Census shows Bosnia's population down 13 percent after war**

Bosnia's population is down 13 percent after its 1992-1995 war, according to results from the first post-conflict census in the Balkan country released Tuesday. According to preliminary results, we have registered 3,791,622 people in Bosnia... who live in 1.16 million households," Zdenko Milinovic, head of the state statistics bureau, told reporters. Bosnia's first post-war census was held in October, with an aim to reveal the country's ethnic makeup almost two decades after the war in which some 100,000 people were killed and more than two million fled their homes.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131105/census-shows-bosnias-population-down-13-percent-after-war**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131105/census-shows-bosnias-population-down-13-percent-after-war)

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Kosovo leader says election valid despite violence**

Authorities may not tally local election results in northern Kosovo after hard-line Serbs allegedly attacked a polling station there, but the country’s prime minister insisted Monday the vote was valid and should stand. It was the first time voters in all of Kosovo were choosing local leaders since the country seceded from Serbia in 2008. The vote was seen as a key test of whether ethnic Serb-majority areas in the north who have rejected the ethnic Albanian government’s authority would cast ballots, but hard-liners are suspected of smashing up a polling station to intimidate fellow Serbs from voting. Prime Minister Hashim Thaci maintained the Serb-majority areas now have ‘‘legitimate representatives,’’ even though election authorities have not yet decided whether to count the results. Enough ethnic Serbs turned out there and elsewhere around the country to give them a voice, he said.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/2013/11/04/kosovo-says-election-valid-despite-violence/ICToIZBmVsoo8gJmTtfg3K/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/2013/11/04/kosovo-says-election-valid-despite-violence/ICToIZBmVsoo8gJmTtfg3K/story.html)

**Tajikistan**

**Tajik leader set to expand 20-year rule in vote**

It's an election in name only: even the challengers to Tajikistan's autocratic president have praised him and the only real opposition candidate has been barred from the race in the ex-Soviet Central Asian nation. Emomali Rakhmon, 61, who has led the mountainous, Sunni Muslim nation neighboring Afghanistan and China for more than two decades, is all but certain to win a fourth presidential term in Wednesday's vote. He polled 79 percent in the previous election seven years ago. Western monitors criticized it as lacking any genuine competition.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tajik-leader-set-expand-20-year-rule-vote-20786122**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tajik-leader-set-expand-20-year-rule-vote-20786122)

EAPR

**Mynamar**

**Myanmar gov't, ethnic armed groups agree to hold political dialogue soonest**

The Myanmar government's Central Peace Making Work Committee and representatives of ethnic armed groups on Tuesday agreed to hold political dialogue soonest, a statement said. The two sides set December to meet again in Pha-an in southeastern Kayin state, according to the joint statement issued at the closing of a two-day nationwide ceasefire talks in Myitgyina, northernmost Kachin state's capital. In order to obtain political consent, the two sides agreed to carry out nationwide ceasefire, discuss the framework of the political dialogue and hold the dialogue.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/05/c\_132861613.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/05/c_132861613.htm)

**UN fears more Myanmar boat tragedies as Rohingya flee clashes**

The UN refugee agency today urged Myanmar to stem sectarian violence to avoid a repeat of a boat tragedy believed to have killed dozens of Rohingya Muslims fleeing clashes in the country. "As with the recent boat disasters on the Mediterranean, our worry is that similar tragedies with follow, unless actions are taken by concerned countries to address the causes and reduce the risks," spokesman Adrian Edwards told reporters. "It is unacceptable that people are driven by such desperation into life-risking journeys, often falling into the hands of ruthless smugglers," he added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/world/article/un-fears-more-myanmar-boat-tragedies-as-rohingya-flee-clashes**](http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/world/article/un-fears-more-myanmar-boat-tragedies-as-rohingya-flee-clashes)

**Thailand**

**Student deaths stir anger in strife-hit Thai south**

Shot in the back as they fled police, the killing of three unarmed students in Thailand's insurgency-hit south has inflamed controversy over a culture of impunity among security forces that activists say boosts support for rebels. Most of the 5,700 people who have died since the conflict erupted in the Muslim-dominated region in 2004 have been civilians caught in rebel attacks and assassinations, or raids by police or military forces. Students Lookman and Samree Dueramae - brothers aged 20 and 17 - and their childhood friend Ismael Paetoh, 17, were shot dead in a police-led raid on their hamlet in Krong Pinang district, Yala province, in April last year. Two suspected Muslim militants, the apparent targets of the raid, were also killed when police and soldiers found the group taking shelter from rain in a lean-to in a rubber plantation.

**AFP -** [**http://www.mysinchew.com/node/93485**](http://www.mysinchew.com/node/93485)

**Thai PM defends amnesty bill in face of protests**

Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra on Tuesday defended a controversial political amnesty bill that has sparked mass anti-government protests, urging the country to "forgive" after years of civil strife. Opponents fear the legislation would allow fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra -- Yingluck's brother -- to return from self-imposed exile. Yingluck said the amnesty was needed to reunite the country after years of turmoil culminating in a bloody crackdown by the previous government on pro-Thaksin "Red Shirt" protests in 2010 that left dozens of civilians dead. "Since this government took power it has focused on reconciliation," she said in a nationally televised address. "An amnesty is not about forgetting our painful lessons but about learning so it does not happen again to our young generation," she said. "If people learn how to forgive, the country will move forward." There have been daily demonstrations in Bangkok since parliament began debating the bill last week.

**AFP -** [**http://www.mysinchew.com/node/93497**](http://www.mysinchew.com/node/93497)

**1,000s protest in Thai capital over amnesty bill**

Thousands of people marched in Thailand's capital and blocked a major road on Monday to protest an amnesty bill they said is designed to bring former PM Thaksin Shinawatra back from overseas exile. More than 5,000 people blew whistles and temporarily halted traffic in Bangkok's financial district of Silom at lunchtime to protest the legislation, which was approved by the lower house of Parliament on Friday. About 15,000 others joined a peaceful march by the opposition Democrat Party through another part of the city, police said. The party had staged a rally that drew thousands of supporters since Thursday. The bill would grant amnesties to those involved in the sometimes-violent political conflict that has sharply divided the country for almost a decade. The Democrat Party says the ruling party-proposed legislation is intended to whitewash Thaksin's alleged crimes and allow his return.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/1000s-protest-thai-capital-amnesty-bill-20773610**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/1000s-protest-thai-capital-amnesty-bill-20773610)

**Viet Nam**

**Viet Nam releases dengue-blocking mosquito**

The 3,500 people on Tri Nguyen island grew accustomed to what would be a bizarre scene almost anywhere else: For five months, community workers went house-to-house in the raging heat, releasing cups of newborn mosquitoes. And the residents were happy to have them. "We do not kill the mosquitoes. We let them bite," says fisherman Tran To. "The Wolbachia living in the house is like a doctor in the house. They may bite, but they stop dengue." Specimens collected from traps are taken back to the lab for analysis to determine how well Wolbachia mosquitoes are infiltrating the native population. The strain of bacteria used on the island blocks dengue 100 percent, but it's also the hardest to sustain. At one point, 90% of the mosquitoes were infected, but the rate dropped to about 65% after the last batch was released in early September. A similar decrease occurred in Australia as well, and scientists switched to other Wolbachia strains that thrive better in the wild but have lesser dengue-blocking abilities.

**AP -** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Vietnam-releases-dengue-blocking-mosquito-4955307.php#page-2**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Vietnam-releases-dengue-blocking-mosquito-4955307.php#page-2)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Zimbabwe military on alert against Mozambique's Renamo**

Zimbabwe is on high alert and is closely monitoring Mozambique where former rebel movement Renamo has resumed hostilities with the government, a report said on Monday. According to Herald, Defence Minister Sydney Sekeramayi said Zimbabwe was closely monitoring the situation but had not deployed any troops yet. A few weeks ago, Renamo withdrew from a 1992 peace deal to fight President Armando Guebuza’s government, a move that could threaten regional stability.

**AFP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/Zim-military-on-alert-against-Mozs-Renamo-20131104**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/Zim-military-on-alert-against-Mozs-Renamo-20131104)

**Flooding cuts off road linking S. Sudan, Uganda**

Heavy rains have washed out a strategic road connecting South Sudan and Uganda, stranding travellers and truck drivers at the border and severely disrupting trade. The Gulu-Nimule road was under several feet of water in places after more than a week of rainfall caused a river near the Ugandan border town of Alegu to burst its banks. Kenyan truck driver Josephat Nyambane has been camping at the side of the usually busy road for days, waiting for it to reopen so that he can deliver his cargo of crates of beer from Kenya to Juba. Albino Baak, a customs officer in Nimule, said the volume of traffic making it across the border has been slashed to around 10 percent of what it usually is. "In a normal day, we clear more than 200 (vehicles) a day but, right now, we are just receiving like 20 to 30 trucks a day," Baak said. That means revenues collected by border agents will also be down significantly from the usual intake of around 70 million South Sudanese pounds a month.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/flooding-south-sudan-nimule-road-uganda-border-trade/1783523.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/flooding-south-sudan-nimule-road-uganda-border-trade/1783523.html)

**Rwandan in Uganda sent home despite safety fears**

Refugee workers and a rights watchdog say they are concerned for the safety of a Rwandan man who was forcibly returned home from Uganda in apparent violation of his refugee status. Mohammed Adar, the Uganda representative for the UN refugee agency, said Tuesday that Joel Mutabazi's return to Rwanda was "unfortunate" because his case was not subjected to a judicial review before he was handed over to Rwandan authorities. Rwandan officials have previously said he was wanted back home over armed robbery charges. Mutabazi, who served in Rwandan President Paul Kagame's security detail before defecting, had lived in Uganda since 2011.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rwandan-uganda-home-safety-fears-20785702**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rwandan-uganda-home-safety-fears-20785702)

**Kenya**

**Four Somalis charged with aiding deadly assault**

Four Somali men were arraigned in a Kenyan court Monday, charged with aiding the September terrorist attack on the Westgate shopping mall in which at least 67 civilians and members of the security forces died. The men pleaded not guilty to all charges against them, which included providing assistance to the attackers and entering Kenya illegally. One was also charged with harboring a terrorist, which suggested, for the first time, that one of the mall attackers may have escaped. The four men arraigned on Monday were Mohamed Ahmed Abdi, Liban Abdulla Omar, Hussein Hassan Mustafah and Adan Dheq. Dheq, who also is known by several aliases, was also accused of offering shelter in a Muslim school in the Nairobi neighborhood of Eastleigh to a man he "knew to have committed a terrorist act," according to court papers listing the charges.

**LA Times -** [**http://www.latimes.com/world/worldnow/la-fg-wn-kenya-four-somalis-westgate-mall-20131104,0,4156296.story#axzz2jiE3XlBh**](http://www.latimes.com/world/worldnow/la-fg-wn-kenya-four-somalis-westgate-mall-20131104,0,4156296.story#axzz2jiE3XlBh)

**Mozambique**

**Mozambique rebel movement rejects peace talks**

Mozambique's revived rebel movement Renamo on Tuesday spurned the government's invite for high level face-to-face talks to end destabilising military skirmishes. The Frelimo-led government had called on its civil war foe Afonso Dhlakama to travel to Maputo on November 8 to discuss his grievances with President Armando Guebuza. But just hours later Renamo rejected the "cynical" invitation outright. Speaking at a news conference in the capital Maputo, Renamo spokesman Fernando Mazanga branded it "a political propaganda campaign without minimal respect for ethics." Supporters of Dhlakama - a rebel leader in Mozambique's brutal civil war - have been involved in a series of deadly attacks and are demanding a share of the country's resource wealth.

**AFP -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/11/05/mozambique-rebel-movement-rejects-peace-talks**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/11/05/mozambique-rebel-movement-rejects-peace-talks)

**Somalia**

**Amid internal divisions, Al Shabaab pledges more attacks**

Somalia's Al Qaeda linked Al Shabaab group said that it would increase terror campaigns against AMISOM troops amidst internal divisions and violent dispute within Al Shabaab ranks, Garowe Online reports. Speaking on pro-Al Shabaab radio in Barawe coastal town of southern Somalia, Al Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage said "Al Shabaab fighters are ready to protect themselves from AMISOM attacks and we will launch raids on AMISOM bases". "It was told that AMISOM demanded new troops, the new troops will replace to those who died in Somalia. Al Shabaab is committed to attack both the current and the new AMISOM forces," added Rage. As Al Shabaab militants have been losing grounds against Somali-AMISOM forces, their spokesman says the militants are expected to increase direct confrontations and ambushes.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201311040325.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201311040325.html)

LAC

**Honduras**

**Elections should mark a turning point for human rights**

Presidential candidates in Honduras must promise to address the dire human rights crisis in the country if there is any chance of putting an end to the escalating levels of violence, insecurity and impunity, said Amnesty International ahead of elections on 24 November. The organization has written to all eight presidential candidates urging them to set out their commitment to human rights. “The human rights situation in Honduras is dire and the future of the country hangs in the balance,” said Guadalupe Marengo, Amnesty International’s Americas Deputy Programme Director. “These elections could mark a turning point, and the presidential candidates must commit to concrete changes to stop the widespread human rights abuses and violations perpetrated against the people of Honduras.”

**Amnesty International -** [**http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/honduras-elections-should-mark-turning-point-human-rights-2013-11-05**](http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/honduras-elections-should-mark-turning-point-human-rights-2013-11-05)

**Nicaragua**

**Nicaragua ruling party seek seeks to remove presidential term limits**

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front party will seek to change the constitution by year-end to remove presidential term limits, lawmakers said on Monday. From Bolivia to Ecuador, a string of Latin American leaders has managed to change rules in recent years to allow them to remain in power beyond traditional term limits. Ortega has not said publicly whether he would like another term as president, but such a reform would allow him to follow in the footsteps of his ideological ally, late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who called a referendum in 2009 to change Venezuela's constitution to allow indefinite reelection. Nicaragua's law has included a two-term limit, but that was overridden by a Supreme Court ruling that allowed Ortega to run again in 2011.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-nicaragua-reelection-idUSBRE9A30ZN20131104?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-nicaragua-reelection-idUSBRE9A30ZN20131104?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Defiant Morsi tells Egypt court to try 'coup' leaders**

Egypt's deposed president Mohamed Morsi appeared in court Monday on the first day of his trial for incitement to murder, rejecting its legitimacy and demanding that "coup" leaders be prosecuted. In his first public appearance since the military toppled him in July, Morsi was indignant and outraged in the makeshift courtroom at a police academy in east Cairo, where his trial was adjourned until January 8.

"I am Dr Mohamed Morsi, the president of the republic," the defiant Islamist told the court. In the nearly three-hour hearing the judge heard requests from the defendants' lawyers, who demanded to see all the case files and be allowed to meet their clients privately. Morsi, held at a secret location since July 3, was then flown to Borg al-Arab prison outside Egypt's second city, Alexandria.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-try-morsi-protester-deaths-024645822.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-try-morsi-protester-deaths-024645822.html)

**Iraq**

**Shootings, bombings kill 12 in Iraq**

A double suicide bombing and other attacks killed 12 people in Iraq on Monday, said officials, while Iraqi legislators passed a law laying the groundwork for next year's parliamentary elections. The latest attacks came two days after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki returned from a trip to Washington in which he sought assistance fighting the insurgency, including weapons and help with intelligence. President Barack Obama pledged Friday to help combat an increasingly active al-Qaida in Iraq but stopped short of announcing new commitments of the assistance al-Maliki sought. Al-Maliki's trip sparked criticism in Iraq, where he faces discontent from across the sectarian divide. Shiites are upset with his failure to provide security, and Sunnis are angry at their perceived second-class citizen treatment.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-shootings-bombings-kill-iraq-20774099**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-shootings-bombings-kill-iraq-20774099)

**Iraq passes election law after weeks of debate**

Iraqi lawmakers passed a new election law on Monday after weeks of debate, paving the way for polls to be held next year and allaying fears that they would be delayed due to deteriorating security. The parliamentary election is seen as a crucial test for Iraq, the world's number four oil exporter last year according to OPEC, which has suffered from political deadlock and violent instability since the departure of US forces in December 2011. Voting on the election bill had repeatedly been postponed in recent weeks because of a dispute between Arabs and ethnic Kurds, who run their own region in the north of the country. Vice President Kudhair al-Khuzaie issued a decree on Monday setting April 30 as the date for the parliamentary election.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-iraq-election-law-idUSBRE9A30YV20131104?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-iraq-election-law-idUSBRE9A30YV20131104?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Libya**

**Two wounded in shootout in Libya's Tripoli**

Two people were wounded in a gunfight that broke out at a Tripoli checkpoint between former rebels who fought to overthrow Moammar Gadhafi, a security official said Tuesday. The fighting erupted after security forces stopped a car with tinted windows carrying members of a brigade that had fought in the city of Misrata during the 2011 uprising, according to Hashem Besher, head of a unit of former rebels under the authority of the interior ministry. "The unit arrested one of the passengers in the car after a dispute. His friends then came to his rescue," he said. One man from each side was wounded in the ensuing firefight, including the leader of the Misrata brigade.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104496-two-wounded-in-shootout-in-libya-s-tripoli**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104496-two-wounded-in-shootout-in-libya-s-tripoli)

**UN mission condemns spate of assassination attempts in Benghazi**

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Monday strongly condemned the series of assassinations in Benghazi targeting security and military officials as well as political activists and other citizens. “UNSMIL emphasizes the need for intensified efforts by the Government and the citizens to confront these heinous crimes by taking practical and swift steps to address its devastating impact on peace and security as well as the safety of the people of Benghazi,” the Mission said in a statement issued from Tripoli. “The Mission calls on the Libyan authorities to give this matter the priority it deserves to ensure the appropriate conditions to accomplish the democratic transition in Libya,” the statement concluded.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46416&Cr=libya&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46416&Cr=libya&Cr1)**=**

**Saudi Arabia**

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

WHO has been informed of an additional laboratory-confirmed case of infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from Saudi Arabia. The patient is a 56-year-old woman with underlying medical conditions from the Eastern Region. She became ill on 26 October 2013 and died on 30 October 2013. She had no contact with animals, but had contact with a previously laboratory confirmed case. Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 150 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including 64 deaths. Based on the current situation and available information, WHO encourages all Member States to continue their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) and to carefully review any unusual patterns.

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\_11\_04/en/index.html**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_11_04/en/index.html)

**Sudan**

**Food rations cut in South Darfur's Kalma camp**

Residents of Kalma camp for the displaced, near Nyala, capital of South Darfur, complain about the reduction of food rations and outbreaks of diseases. Speaking to Radio Dabanga, Sheikh Ali Abdelrahman Tahir of Kalma camp, said that the food ration for 99,264 “older displaced” has been reduced from a large sack of sorghum per month for four persons, to a malwa (3.145 kg) of sorghum per person per month. As for the 141,730 “newly displaced”, 139,000 receive half a malwa per person from WFP. The sheikh added that many camp residents suffer from seasonal winter diseases, in particular those whose houses were damaged by the autumn rains and floods. The 2,730 affected are still living in the open, under trees. Sheikh Tahir appealed to humanitarian organisations to provide shelter and food for affected displaced.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/food-rations-cut-south-darfurs-kalma-camp**](http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/food-rations-cut-south-darfurs-kalma-camp)

**Syria**

**Mortar hits Vatican embassy in Damascus, no casualties**

The Vatican Embassy in Damascus was hit by mortar fire on Tuesday but there were no casualties, a Vatican spokesman said. It was not clear if the embassy was deliberately targetted. It is located in the wealthy Maliki area of the Syrian capital, where there are several embassies as well as the residences of government and security officials. "There was damage but no one was injured. The mortar hit a wing of the embassy that is currently not being used," said Father Ciro Benedettini said from the Vatican City. An official at the embassy said the mortar had damaged part of the roof and left broken glass inside the building.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131105110126-gvwiv**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131105110126-gvwiv)

**UN envoy to discuss Syria talks with Russia, US**

UN's top Syria envoy is heading into meetings with senior Russian and US officials to assess prospects of peace talks in Geneva between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and a united opposition delegation. Lakhdar Brahimi and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman also plan to meet with officials from Britain, France, China and other regional powers affected by the war in Syria.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/envoy-discuss-syria-talks-russia-us-20785443**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/envoy-discuss-syria-talks-russia-us-20785443)

**Tunisia**

**Ruling party, opposition suspend talks over new government**

Tunisia's ruling Islamists and opposition parties suspended talks on Monday over forming a new caretaker government to end the country's crisis after the two sides failed to agree on naming a prime minister. The suspension was a blow to hopes of a quick end to political deadlock in a country whose 2011 uprising inspired the "Arab Spring" revolts across the region. It was not clear when negotiations would restart. Tunisia's Islamist-led government has already agreed to step down later this month to make way for a temporary administration that will govern until elections, but the two sides remain deeply split over details of their agreement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-tunisia-crisis-idUSBRE9A311Y20131104**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-tunisia-crisis-idUSBRE9A311Y20131104)

**Yemen**

**Yemen sectarian fighting resumes in north Yemen after short truce**

Sectarian fighting has reignited between Shia Huthi rebels and Sunni Islamists in northern Yemen, shortly after a ceasefire allowed the evacuation of the critically wounded, both sides said Tuesday.

The Huthis have been battling Yemen's central government for nearly a decade, but the outbreak of fighting with Sunni militants has amplified the sectarian dimension of the conflict in the remote northern Saada province, which has long been virtually inaccessible to reporters. "The ceasefire collapsed after few hours," Huthi spokesman Ali al-Bakheeti told AFP. He accused foreign Salafist extremists, allegedly based in the village of Dammaj, of violating the truce announced on Monday by the UN special envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar. A spokesman for the Salafists in Dammaj accused the Shiite rebels of violating the ceasefire.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/85675.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/85675.aspx)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Heavy rainfall worsening landmine peril for Kashmiri farmers**

Millions of anti-personnel mines have been buried periodically along the border as a result of tensions between India and Pakistan. Notably, unlike 160 other countries, India and Pakistan are not signatories to the Ottawa Treaty, officially known as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, which came into force in 1999. Despite a ceasefire on the Line of Control, landmines continue claiming the lives and limbs of villagers and their livestock, turning vast tracks of agricultural and grazing land into danger zones, disrupting farming and restricting the ability of local people to access natural resources in the area. And as increasingly extreme rainfall hits the mountainous region, the problem of land mines washing off the hillsides and into new positions – often in more populated agricultural land – continues to grow.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131105114734-t0u3e/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131105114734-t0u3e/?source=hpeditorial)

**Bangladesh**

**2 dead in violence sparked by opposition strike in Bangladesh**

Two people died and scores of others were injured Monday as protesters set off homemade bombs and torched cars during an opposition strike demanding that Bangladesh’s government step aside ahead of January elections, reports said. Security was tight across the capital, Dhaka, with extra police and paramilitary guards patrolling the streets at the start of the three-day strike. A similar protest last week also turned violent, with at least 16 people killed in clashes as opposition members tried to enforce the strike. The violence comes at a time of deep tension in Bangladesh, a nation struggling to overcome extreme poverty, rancorous politics and a string of horrific accidents linked to the garment industry.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\_pacific/blasts-torching-of-vehicles-mark-start-of-opposition-strike-in-bangladesh/2013/11/03/de5c1ee0-4505-11e3-95a9-3f15b5618ba8\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/blasts-torching-of-vehicles-mark-start-of-opposition-strike-in-bangladesh/2013/11/03/de5c1ee0-4505-11e3-95a9-3f15b5618ba8_story.html)

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/11/05/violence-continues-bangladesh-strike/2hnEmRZgu1nJ2oxDmnYz9K/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/11/05/violence-continues-bangladesh-strike/2hnEmRZgu1nJ2oxDmnYz9K/story.html)

**Bangladesh court sentences 150 soldiers to death for 2009 mutiny**

A Bangladeshi court on Tuesday sentenced at least 150 soldiers to death during a mass verdict over a 2009 mutiny in which scores of top officers were massacred, a prosecutor said. A judge convicted and sentenced to death the soldiers over the mutiny in which 74 people including officers were hacked to death, tortured or burnt alive before their bodies were dumped in sewers and shallow graves. "At least 150 BDR soldiers have been sentenced to death for the massacre of the army officers," lead prosecutor Baharul Islam told AFP outside the court in Dhaka. At least another 350 of the 823 soldiers charged over the mutiny were sentenced to jail for their role in the 30-hour uprising that started at the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters in Dhaka.

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Bangladesh-court-sentences-150-soldiers-to-death-for-2009-mutiny/articleshow/25258352.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Bangladesh-court-sentences-150-soldiers-to-death-for-2009-mutiny/articleshow/25258352.cms)

**India**

**Militants kill five policemen in northeast India**

Five policemen were killed in an ambush Tuesday by militants in south Garo Hills in the northeast Indian state of Meghalaya, said police. The militant outfit Garo National Liberation Army was behind the attack, police said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/05/c\_132861657.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/05/c_132861657.htm)

**Pakistan**

**Gunmen kill five Sunnis in southern Pakistan**

Gunmen in Pakistan's financial metropolis Karachi shot dead five Sunni Muslims a day after six minority Shiites were killed in the same city, officials said. Police said the five belonged to the conservative Deobandi movement and were either members of sympathisers of banned extremist outfits. "Apparently they were targeted because of their sect," senior police officer Muneer Shaikh told AFP. The shootings took place in different areas of Karachi, Shaikh said, but declined to comment on whether they were revenge killings following the murders of the Shiites on Monday. City police chief Shahid Hayat said a "conspiracy is being hatched to fan Sunni-Shiite clashes in the city."

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104502-gunmen-kill-five-sunnis-in-southern-pakistan**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104502-gunmen-kill-five-sunnis-in-southern-pakistan)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Serious locust situation developing in several countries**

An outbreak has developed within an area of about 120,000 km2 in west and northwest Mauritania where adults arrived from summer breeding areas in the south, concentrated, matured, and formed groups. Egg-laying started in September and continued throughout October when hatching occurred and hoppers began forming small groups and bands. Ground teams have treated nearly 3,000 ha so far. Good rains that fell during October will allow breeding to continue and cause locust numbers to increase further in northwest Mauritania. More hatching is expected in November and there is a risk that additional groups of hoppers and adults as well as small hopper bands and perhaps a few small swarmlets could eventually form. As the seasonal rains have ended in the northern Sahel, vegetation is drying out in the summer breeding areas, causing locusts to concentrate in parts of northern Mali, Niger and Chad where small groups could form during November.

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

**Over $8 billion pledged for Sahel region as global leaders begin UN-led visit**

Global leaders have pledged over $8 billion to boost economic growth in the Sahel region of West Africa as they begin a UN-led visit to an area that has suffered for decades from devastating poverty, hunger and instability. “The challenges in the Sahel respect no borders – neither should our solutions. The cycle of crises can be broken,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who arrives in Bamako, Mali, today with other development leaders. The Sahel has suffered three major droughts in less than a decade. More than 11 million people are at risk of hunger and 5 million children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition. In addition, political instability and unconstitutional changes in Governments have had significant economic and social consequences in the region and terrorist acts, as well as organized crime, have threatened the region’s stability.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46410&Cr=Sahel&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46410&Cr=Sahel&Cr1)**=**

**CAR**

**Former rebels pillage, burn down villages**

Armed members of the Central African Republic's former rebel coalition looted and burned down about 100 houses last week, African military officials said Monday, the latest unrest to hit the chronically unstable country. "The village of Vacap and parts of the village of Yongoro went up in flames," an officer of the African-led stabilisation force MISCA told AFP on condition of anonymity. "Villagers' property was destroyed by fire. They all fled to the scrubland." He could not say whether there were any casualties or wounded, after returning from the area. Both villages are located in the west of the impoverished country. The landlocked nation has been mired in chaos since the Seleka coalition of rebels ousted longtime president Francois Bozize in March.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/former-rebels-pillage-burn-down-c-africa-villages-203026211.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/former-rebels-pillage-burn-down-c-africa-villages-203026211.html)

**Despite conflict and displacement, half a million children vaccinated, and counting - UNICEF**

The vaccination area was strategically set up at an entrance to one of the displacement camps in Bossangoa, in the northwest of the CAR. After returning from the fields to pick pumpkins, eggplants and cassava, women would stop in and get their children vaccinated. Over the past six months, **UNICEF** and its partners, including the national Ministry of Health and the WHO, have provided vaccinations and other life-saving treatments to more than 500,000 children. During the vaccination campaign in Bossangoa, carried out with support from **UNICEF** and logistics assistance from MSF, nearly 9,400 displaced children between 6 months and 14 years were vaccinated against measles and polio, and received vitamin A supplements and Albendazol tablets for deworming.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car\_70808.html?utm\_source=unicef\_news&utm\_medium=rss&utm\_campaign=rss\_link**](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car_70808.html?utm_source=unicef_news&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=rss_link)

**DR Congo**

**DR Congo army to attack Rwandan rebels 'imminently'**

The army in the Democratic Republic of Congo will attack Rwandan Hutu rebels based in the east of the country "imminently", government spokesman Lambert Mende said Tuesday. "There is no more place in our country for any irregular group," Mende said, adding that the newly defeated M23 rebels "were top of the list. They have been replaced by the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda). We are going to get on with disarming them."

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131105/dr-congo-army-attack-rwandan-rebels-imminently**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131105/dr-congo-army-attack-rwandan-rebels-imminently)

**DR Congo M23 rebels 'end insurgency'**

The M23 rebel group in the eastern DRC says it is ending its insurgency, hours after the government claimed military victory. In a statement, the movement said it would adopt "purely political means" to achieve its goals and urged its fighters to disarm and demobilise. The government said the last remaining rebels had either surrendered or fled across the border overnight. At least 800,000 people have fled their homes since the conflict began in 2012. A summit of African leaders on Monday night in the South African capital Pretoria agreed that the M23 should make "a public declaration renouncing rebellion" to allow a peace accord to be signed with the Congolese government.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24816223**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24816223)

**African leaders meet to discuss crisis**

African leaders went into talks Monday to discuss the possibility of reinforcing a UN special brigade deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as rebels there are forced onto the back foot. South African President Jacob Zuma opened the talks urging his fellow leaders "to continue to do everything we can to act together in partnership, to respond to the urgent challenges of restoring peace and stability". Zuma is hosting leaders from the 15-country Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and some of DR Congo's neighbours at the summit in Pretoria. The 3,000-strong UN intervention brigade in eastern DR Congo is drawn in roughly equal numbers from Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania. It is designed to help Congo's army quell the rebellions in the region.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131104/african-leaders-meet-discuss-dr-congo-crisis**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131104/african-leaders-meet-discuss-dr-congo-crisis)

**UN brigade in combat against rebels**

The UN special force in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo engaged in direct combat with besieged M23 rebels, throwing its weight behind a crushing army assault despite calls for a truce.

A UN source said the intervention brigade fired mortar rounds after getting the "green light" to bombard the last positions of the M23, in what appeared to be the first time the force has actively taken part in the fighting. "Our targets are... Runyonyi and Chanzu," said another source in the UN brigade, referring to two hilltops about 80 kilometres north of regional capital Goma, at about 2,000 metres (6,500 feet), where dozens of holdout rebels have dug in. "There is some resistance. We will continue to fire until everything is under control," added the source.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/dr-congo-army-says-assault-launched-last-rebel-085652557.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/dr-congo-army-says-assault-launched-last-rebel-085652557.html)

**Four civilians killed when mortars hit market**

The UN special force deployed in the DRC began firing mortar rounds at M23 rebels on Monday, an officer with the brigade said, as they joined in a major assault by the Congolese army to wipe out the rebellion. The officer added that the force had joined the combat after receiving a "green light" on Monday to do so. UN forces have until now backed the Congolese forces with aerial reconnaissance, intelligence and planning.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/congo-civilians-killed-mortars-hit-market-20775771**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/congo-civilians-killed-mortars-hit-market-20775771)

**DR Congo rejects M23 rebels ceasefire offer**

The D RC’s government on Monday formally rejected a ceasefire offer from the M23 rebel group and pressed its military advantage in the eastern border of the war-torn country. In a statement, the government “acknowledged” the ceasefire offer made by M23 chairman Bertrand Bisimwa at peace negotiations in neighbouring Uganda on Sunday, but called instead on the rebel movement to “move immediately into barracks for disarmament and demobilisation as agreed in the conclusions of the Kampala talks." “What is expected is not a ceasefire. It is the end of all military activities by M23,” the statement added. The army continued its offensive on Monday in the rebels’ last strongholds in North Kivu province, near the borders of Rwanda and Uganda.

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131104-democratic-republic-congo-drc-rejects-m23-rebel-ceasefire-uganda**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131104-democratic-republic-congo-drc-rejects-m23-rebel-ceasefire-uganda)

**Mali**

**Four killed as truck hits landmine in the north**

Four passengers were killed when their truck hit a landmine in conflict-scarred northern Mali on Monday, a local government official and a nurse told AFP. The pick-up was transporting 38 people between the desert towns of Ansongo and Menaka in the Gao region when it drove over the explosive device, said Ibrahim Ag Moha, a local government official in Menaka. "Four people died on the spot and eight others were injured, and are currently being taken to hospital in Menaka," he added. A nurse at the hospital confirmed the deaths, saying that two of the injured were in a critical condition. The truck was a public transport vehicle, she added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131104/four-killed-truck-hits-landmine-north-mali**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131104/four-killed-truck-hits-landmine-north-mali)

**Tuareg rebels 'humiliated' over journalist murders**

The main Tuareg rebel group in Mali said on Monday it had been humiliated by the murder of two French journalists in its desert stronghold but had been denied the opportunity to help find the killers. Ghislaine Dupont, 57, and Claude Verlon, 55, were kidnapped and shot dead by what French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said were "terrorist groups" in the flashpoint northeastern town of Kidal on Saturday. "We asked to participate in the hunt for the authors of this heinous act but nothing is decided," Mahamadou Djeri Maiga, vice-president of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) told AFP from neighbouring Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou. French troops are working with Malian security forces to hunt the killers of Dupont and Verlon, both veteran journalists with Radio France Internationale (RFI) who had many years' experience working in Africa. "They are refusing even to show us the vehicle used for the kidnapping, even though seeing it could put us on the trail of the terrorists," Maiga told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/tuareg-rebels-humiliated-over-journalist-murders-191436079.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/tuareg-rebels-humiliated-over-journalist-murders-191436079.html)

**Three rebel movements announce merger**

Three Tuareg and Arab rebel movements in northern Mali announced their merger on Monday to form a united front in peace talks with the authorities in Bamako. The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) adopted a "political platform", a "negotiating committee" and a joint "decision-making body" after several days of talks in Burkina Faso. The groups said the decision was "guided by a common political will to prioritise the best interests of the people" of the vast northern desert region they call Azawad, adding that a political solution was the only option for securing peace. The merger will go ahead "within 45 days" after the membership of each of the groups had approved the move, they said, adding that no name had yet been chosen for the new movement.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/three-malian-tuareg-arab-rebel-movements-announce-merger-200931728.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/three-malian-tuareg-arab-rebel-movements-announce-merger-200931728.html)

**Niger**

**Authorities rescue 72 migrants stranded in desert**

The Niger authorities on Monday rescued 72 illegal migrants stranded in the scorching Sahara desert after their truck got a flat tyre. The people who found them were on their way to the burial site for some of the 92 migrants who died of thirst after a similar incident last month. "They were spotted in the middle of the desert by a delegation from Agadez that was on its way to the graves of the migrants who died recently," Azaoua Mamane, from the Niger-based aid group Synergie, told AFP.

A local security official confirmed the rescue but provided no details. Mamane said the group, mostly women and children under the age of 10, were on their way back from Algeria.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131104-niger-rescues-72-migrants-stranded-desert**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131104-niger-rescues-72-migrants-stranded-desert)

**Nigeria**

**Militants kill 70 people in northeast attacks**

Suspected Boko Haram militants have killed 70 people in three attacks in northeastern Nigeria in recent days, officials said on Monday, a sign that a military crackdown is failing to subdue the Islamist insurgency. Gunmen fired on a convoy of people returning from a wedding party in Borno state on Saturday, killing 30 people, including the groom, said Ahmad Sajo, spokesman for neighboring Adamawa state. The military said only five were killed. Further north in Borno's Gulumba village, gunmen on motorbikes and in a pick-up truck shot dead 27 people and wounded another 12 in the early hours of Thursday, the Chairman of Bama Local Government, Baba Shehu Gulumba, told reporters. Gulumba said a further 13 people were killed on Saturday in a similar attack in nearby T-Junction village. Insurgents also set houses ablaze and stole motorbikes, cars, livestock and 3.5 million naira ($22,100), he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE9A30PR20131104**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/04/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE9A30PR20131104)

**1 million Nigerian children to receive measles vaccination**

About 1.2 million children will be vaccinated against measles in a preventive program initiated by Anambra state in southeast Nigeria. Children between the ages of 9 and 59 months in 17 local government areas of the country would be vaccinated under the integrated measles campaign, Chukwudi Okoye, state director of Primary Health Care and Diseases Control, said Tuesday in Awka, the state capital. The health official told reporters children within the age range would also receive antigens, such as oral polio vaccines. The immunization would be conducted in all public health facilities and temporary fixed posts, including churches, markets and village squares, Okoye said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/05/c\_132861548.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/05/c_132861548.htm)

**Building collapse kills at least 7 in Nigeria**

At least seven were killed and several others injured when a five-story building under construction in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, collapsed late on Monday, rescue workers sources told Xinhua Tuesday. The death toll is likely to rise, as most of the injured were in critical condition and it remained unknown how many were trapped in the debris, according to local civil defense officials and rescuers. More than 20 people were working on the building when it collapsed, Fatai Lawal, a nearby security guard told Xinhua. The cause of the collapse remains unclear, and an investigation is underway. Building collapses are quite often in Nigeria, often because of poor construction practices. More than 50 people have been killed in different building collapses across Nigeria this year.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/05/c\_132861618.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-11/05/c_132861618.htm)

**Togo**

**WHO donates materials to fight cholera**

WHO, has donated facilities to Togo to fight a cholera outbreak, the Chief National Programme Co-ordinator, Fight Against Diarrheal Diseases in Togo, reported. He said the WHO also donated drugs, such as antibiotics, and water disinfection products. “It also facilitated awareness creation on measures to prevent cholera infection,” he said. The co-ordinator said Togo recorded 116 cholera cases in the recent outbreak in August, with four deaths. “The latest outbreak was first recorded late August in Lome and the lake areas of Anfoin. Other cases were recorded in the central region.” He said a nationwide awareness campaign had been kicked off to educate the masses on the need to maintain basic rules of hygiene.

**NAN -** [**http://premiumtimesng.com/news/foreign/147795-donates-6-5m-cfa-worth-materials-fight-cholera-togo.html**](http://premiumtimesng.com/news/foreign/147795-donates-6-5m-cfa-worth-materials-fight-cholera-togo.html)

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