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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Two Koreas agree to re-open Kaesong industrial zone**

North and South Korea agreed Wednesday to reopen the jointly-run Kaesong industrial park on a trial basis from next Monday, five months after it was shut during soaring military tensions. The reopening date was settled after a marathon, 20-hour negotiating session, and marks a tangible step forward for recent efforts to improve cross-border relations.The two sides agreed that operations at the South-funded complex that lies 10 kilometres (six miles) over the border in North Korea would "resume on a trial basis from September 16," it said.

**AFP -** [**http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/world/18873930/two-koreas-agree-date-to-open-kaesong-zone/#**](http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/world/18873930/two-koreas-agree-date-to-open-kaesong-zone/#)

**Japan says it may inhabit disputed islands**

Japan said Tuesday it is considering stationing government officials on disputed East China Sea islands to back its territorial claim. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the permanent placing of officials on the currently uninhabited islands, controlled by Japan but also claimed by China, is a strategic option. "We consider it an option, and plan to study the possibility based on a strategic point of view," he told a news conference. "There is no room for compromise over our sovereignty." In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry warned that such a move would not be tolerated. "If they do provoke, they must be prepared to take the consequences," ministry spokesman Hong Lei said.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/japan-staff-disputed-islets-option-20208702#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/japan-staff-disputed-islets-option-20208702#)

**Hurricane Humberto forms in the Atlantic**

Humberto has strengthened to a Category 1 hurricane far out in the Atlantic, becoming the first hurricane of the Atlantic season. Humberto's maximum sustained winds early Wednesday are near 75 mph. The U.S. National Hurricane Center says the hurricane could gain more strength before a weakening trend likely starts on Thursday. Humberto is centered about 310 miles west-northwest of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands and is moving north-northwest near 8 mph. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Gabrielle is passing west-southwest of Bermuda, hitting the wealthy British territory with wind, rain and rough surf. Gabriella has maximum sustained winds near 60 mph.

**AP -** [**http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/national\_world&id=9241210**](http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/national_world&id=9241210)

**UNHCR crowd-sources refugee solutions**

In August, UNHCR launched UNHCR Ideas, an initiative that uses crowd-sourcing technology to connect employees, partners and beneficiaries using a platform that allows them to share and discuss ideas for tackling some of the organization's most pressing problems. Rocco Nuri, communications officer with UNHCR Innovation, a recently launched unit within the agency, told IRIN that the crowd-sourcing tool, developed by California-based software developer Spigit, "allows us to take a bottom-up approach to identifying, validating and implementing refugee-centred solutions". The initial step involves issuing a "challenge" to participants, who include UNHCR staff, partners, refugee experts and a handful of refugees - an issue of concern for some rights advocates. The participants submit ideas, which can be viewed, commented on and voted for by other participants. After four weeks, the top 20 ideas are evaluated by a panel of experts, who provide feedback on how participants might tweak or strengthen their proposals. A final review stage will then select the best idea for research or piloting by UNHCR Innovation.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98727/unhcr-crowd-sources-refugee-solutions**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98727/unhcr-crowd-sources-refugee-solutions)

**Sudan/South Sudan**

**Abyei citizens want referendum to go ahead despite Sudan’s rejection**

Representatives from various civil society and faith-based organisations from the contested Abyei region took to the street on Tuesday to protest the failure of Sudan and South Sudan to agree on a date for a proposed referendum, warning that they would decide their own destiny if the two sides continued to stall. Protesters in Abyei town carried posters calling on the international community to stand behind their decision to control their own fate, calling for an immediate summit between South Sudanese president Salva Kiir Mayardit and his Sudanese counterpart, Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, to reach an agreement on the referendum and set a date.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48000#**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48000#)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Demonstrator's death stirs protests in Turkey**

Anti-government protesters have gathered in Turkey after a demonstrator died during a protest in the southeastern province of Hatay. Hundreds of demonstrators marched to Istanbul's Taksim Square on Tuesday after Taksim Solidarity Platform, an umbrella group of Turkish dissidents, called for a gathering to mark the death of 22-year-old protester Ahmet Atakan the day before. Dozens of riot police backed by water cannon advanced down a main pedestrian and some fired teargas canisters and plastic pellets into side streets as protesters fled. In the capital Ankara, more than 1,000 people gathered in the central square of Kizilay before police used water cannon and teargas to break up the crowd.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/09/2013910161847778987.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/09/2013910161847778987.html#)

EAPR

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar Buddhist committee bans anti-Muslim organizations**

A government-appointed body that oversees Myanmar's Buddhist monkhood has issued a directive intended to check the influence of a monk-led movement accused of stoking violence against minority Muslims. At least 237 people have died in sectarian violence since June last year and more than 150,000 have been displaced. The vast majority of the victims were Muslim. The bloodshed, mirrored by increasing attacks on Muslims in Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka, has threatened to undermine political and economic reforms the government initiated two years ago after half a century of military rule. In an order dated September 2, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of monks responsible for regulating the Buddhist clergy prohibited the creation of formal organizations based around the 969 movement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-myanmar-buddhism-idUSBRE98A0EP20130911**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-myanmar-buddhism-idUSBRE98A0EP20130911)

**Philippines**

**Philippine rebels call for foreign mediation**

Rebel fighters holding scores of hostages in the southern Philippines have demanded international mediation, an official said. The rebels, enraged by a broken peace deal with the government, are holding the civilian hostages as human shields near the port city of Zamboanga. Troops have surrounded the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members and their hostages in four coastal villages. Last month, the MNLF issued new threats to secede by establishing its own republic. However, its leader, Nur Misuari, has not appeared in public or issued any statement since about 200

of his followers barged into Zamboanga city's coast early Monday and clashed with soldiers and police. The fighting left at least nine people dead and several wounded.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/09/201391142933680104.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/09/201391142933680104.html#)

**Hundreds gather for Philippine anti-graft rally**

About a thousand people staged a street protest in the Philippines on Wednesday in the second internet-fuelled demonstration in three weeks against alleged large-scale corruption by members of parliament. The rally at a Catholic shrine featured a religious mass to oppose “pork barrel” allocations given to legislators, which protesters condemned as a major source of graft.

**AFP -** [**http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1308405/hundreds-gather-philippine-anti-graft-rally**](http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1308405/hundreds-gather-philippine-anti-graft-rally)

**Thailand**

**Five police killed in attack in south of Thailand**

Suspected Muslim insurgents killed five policemen in Thailand's deep south on Wednesday in one of the most serious attacks since talks between a major Muslim rebel group and the government to end nearly a decade of conflict stalled. "A special investigative unit was on duty when rebels opened fire on their car ... Everyone on the team died," a police official in the area told Reuters. It was not clear what the team was investigating at the time of the attack in Pattani police.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-thailand-south-idUSBRE98A08W20130911#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-thailand-south-idUSBRE98A08W20130911#)

**Satisfied by government subsidy, Thai rubber farmers call off protest**

Thai rubber farmers have called off demonstrations planned for the weekend after the government doubled its subsidy for production and offered help for people arrested in protests last week, a farmers' leader said on Wednesday. "We are quite satisfied with the government subsidy. We can tell you for sure now there will be no protest this weekend," said Amnuay Yutitham, leader of a group representing farmers from 16 southern provinces, where most Thai rubber is produced. The government has promised a subsidy that should lift farmers' income to around 90 baht ($2.80) per kg, versus a market price of around 80 baht. It has also indicated it could provide help for those caught up in the violence during the protests.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-thailand-rubber-protest-idUSBRE98A0BQ20130911**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-thailand-rubber-protest-idUSBRE98A0BQ20130911)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Loss of refugee status leaves many Angolans undocumented in South Africa**

Many Angolan refugees living in South Africa have been left undocumented after a deadline for the cessation of their refugee status elapsed before they were able to secure immigration permits or exemption decisions. In May, the South African government announced plans to implement a recommendation by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to end refugee status for Angolans who had fled their country due to the civil war, which ended in 2002. Nearly 6,000 Angolan refugees, the majority of whom live in Cape Town, were given until 31 August to either repatriate to Angola, apply for an exemption in order to remain in South Africa as a refugee, or apply for a temporary residence permit under “relaxed” documentation requirements. Help desks were set up at Refugee Reception Offices to give the refugees information and help filling out the required forms.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98724/loss-of-refugee-status-leaves-many-angolans-undocumented-in-south-africa**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98724/loss-of-refugee-status-leaves-many-angolans-undocumented-in-south-africa)

**Ugandans happiest in East Africa - UN**

Ugandans are the happiest people in East Africa, according to the UN’s 2013 World Happiness Report released yesterday. Uganda is ranked 120 out of 156 countries surveyed, marginally ahead of the wealthier neighbouring Kenya at 123. Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi in descending order take the consecutive slots from 151, meaning their citizens huddle among the unhappiest people in the world. The World Happiness Report, the second such report, examined happiness both as an aspiration of every human being and a measure of social progress.

**Daily Monitor -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ugandans+happiest+in+East+Africa+++UN/-/688334/1987436/-/14s6baqz/-/index.html#**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ugandans+happiest+in+East+Africa+++UN/-/688334/1987436/-/14s6baqz/-/index.html#)

**Kenya**

**Kenya making “huge progress” in fight against HIV/AIDS**

Kenya is making great strides in tackling HIV/AIDS, with a fall in the HIV positive population and a surge in the number of people getting tested and receiving treatment, according to a government survey released on Tuesday. Kenya has the fourth largest HIV positive population in the world, after South Africa, Nigeria and India. But the number of Kenyans living with the disease fell from 1.4 million to 1.2 million between 2007 and 2012, the 2012 Kenya Aids Indicator Survey revealed on Tuesday. The prevalence of HIV among adults dropped from 7.2 to 5.6 percent in the same period.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130910131526-iak2j/?source=hpeditorial#**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130910131526-iak2j/?source=hpeditorial#)

**Kenya water discovery brings hope for drought relief in rural north**

Two vast underground aquifers, storing billions of litres of water, have been discovered in the poorest and least developed area of Kenya. The finds, in Turkana county in the north west, were uncovered using new technology to interpret ground-penetrating radar from satellites. Professor Judy Wakhungu, appointed minister of environment, water and natural resources in April, described the find as extremely significant. "It is not too deep and ought not to be too expensive to develop," she added. The barren semi-desert Turkana region is home to about 700,000 people. Most live off their herds of camels, goats and sheep. Temperatures rarely fall below 30C and water is scarce. "Many people have to live on around 10 litres of water a day," said Brian McSorley, Oxfam's water expert in Nairobi. "This is half the minimum daily requirement."

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/11/kenya-water-discovery-drought-relief**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/11/kenya-water-discovery-drought-relief)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Suicide bombing hits security HQ in Sinai**

Egyptian officials say a suicide bomber has rammed his explosives-laden car into the security headquarters in a border town in Sinai, killing at least one person. The security officials say the front of the one-story building in the town of Rafah has collapsed and that an unspecified number of troops and policemen are buried underneath. They say the bomber drove into the building at high speed on Wednesday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egyptian-army-kills-militants-sinai-offensive-20208572#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egyptian-army-kills-militants-sinai-offensive-20208572#)

**Egyptian army kills 9 suspects in Sinai offensive**

Egyptian army troops backed by helicopter gunships attacked suspected hideouts of Islamic militants in the Sinai Peninsula on Tuesday, killing nine and arresting 10, a military official said. The latest raids raised the death toll from four days of operations to 29. Officials have described the military offensive that started Saturday as the biggest sweep of the region in recent years, aiming to weed out al-Qaida-inspired groups who have taken hold in villages in northern Sinai. A military official said militant infrastructure including weapons caches, missile launchers, and nearly 100 vehicles were targeted in the operation. The official said troops, often with the help of air cover, have also targeted shacks and homes used by militants as hideouts, and areas where they stacked fuel for vehicles.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egyptian-army-kills-9-suspects-sinai-offensive-193744645.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/egyptian-army-kills-9-suspects-sinai-offensive-193744645.html#)

**Amnesty decries 'extreme political violence' in Egypt**

Amnesty International called on Tuesday for an independent investigation into killings by Egyptian security forces as well as torture and violations of the rights to free speech and assembly. The military's overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi in July after mass protests against him unleashed an "extreme level of political violence", the London-based group told the United Nations Human Rights Council. "Between 14 and 18 August, at least 1,089 people were killed, many due to the use of excessive, grossly disproportionate and unwarranted lethal force by security forces," said Peter Splinter, Amnesty representative in Geneva.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-10/230720-amnesty-decries-extreme-political-violence-in-egypt.ashx#axzz2eUMu8AH6#**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-10/230720-amnesty-decries-extreme-political-violence-in-egypt.ashx#axzz2eUMu8AH6#)

**Egypt bans mosque preachers in crackdown on Islamists**

Egyptian authorities will bar 55,000 unlicensed clerics from preaching in mosques in the latest move against sympathisers of deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, the minister of religious endowments said on Tuesday. Egyptian authorities have been cracking down on Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood since the army toppled him on July 3 following mass protests against his rule. Minister of Endowments Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa said the clerics lack licenses to preach and were considered to be fundamentalist and a threat to the Egypt’s security. The ban will mainly target small unlicensed mosques or random praying areas. The idea is to spread a moderate message of Islam and keep Egyptians away from radical ideas.

**Reuters -** [**http://jordantimes.com/egypt-bans-mosque-preachers-in-crackdown-on-islamists**](http://jordantimes.com/egypt-bans-mosque-preachers-in-crackdown-on-islamists)

**Iraq**

**Iraq closes airport in second largest city, no explanation**

Iraq closed the international airport in its second largest city Mosul on Tuesday, grounding all flights without giving any explanation, air industry and security sources said. The closure affects flights to and from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey, as well as daily internal flights between the northern city and the capital. “Security forces closed Mosul airport without giving any reason. All flights are canceled,” said a source at the airport on condition of anonymity.

**Reuters -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/10/Iraq-closes-airport-in-second-largest-city-no-explanation.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/10/Iraq-closes-airport-in-second-largest-city-no-explanation.html)

**Libya**

**Car bomb hits Foreign Ministry in Benghazi**

A powerful car bomb exploded Wednesday near Libya's Foreign Ministry building in the heart of the eastern coastal city of Benghazi, security officials said, one year to the date after an attack there killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. The early morning blast targeted a building that once housed U.S. Consulate under the rule of King Idris, who former Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi overthrew in a 1969 bloodless coup. The explosion caused no serious causalities, though several passers-by were slightly wounded, officials said. The bomb blew out a side wall of the building, leaving desks, filing cabinets and computers strewn among the concrete rubble. It also damaged the Benghazi branch of the Libyan Central Bank along a major thoroughfare in the city. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The security officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

**AP -** [**http://bigstory.ap.org/article/libya-blast-hits-foreign-ministry-benghazi**](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/libya-blast-hits-foreign-ministry-benghazi)

**Syria**

**Syria rebels still in Christian town Maalula**

Syrian rebels were still positioned in a historic Christian town near Damascus on Wednesday, a day after they announced they were ready to withdraw, a security source told Agence France Presse. "The army has not yet retaken Maalula. The battles are raging on, but (the army) is making progress," the source said. "The rebels still hold some pockets of resistance inside Maalula and its surroundings," the source added. Rebels announced on Tuesday they would withdraw from Maalula, but that their withdrawal was "conditional" on pro-regime forces not taking their place.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/97648-security-syria-rebels-still-in-christian-town-maalula**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/97648-security-syria-rebels-still-in-christian-town-maalula)

**UN confirms 8 massacres by Assad regime, supporters in Syria, 1 by rebels**

Evidence confirms at least eight massacres have been perpetrated in Syria by President Bashar Assad's regime and supporters and one by rebels over the past year and a half, a UN commission said Wednesday. Calling Syria a battlefield where armed forces are getting away with large-scale murder, the UN commission investigating human rights abuses in Syria said that in each of the incidents since April 2012 "the intentional mass killing and identity of the perpetrator were confirmed to the commission's evidentiary standards." Its latest report Wednesday also notes that the four-member commission is probing nine more suspected mass killings since March. With those, it said, the illegal killing was confirmed but the perpetrator could not yet be identified. In other cases, it said, the circumstances of the killing were not sufficiently clear to be able to determine the legality.

**AP -** [**http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/un-confirms-8-massacres-by-assad-regime-supporters-in-syria-1-by-rebels-1.1449406**](http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/un-confirms-8-massacres-by-assad-regime-supporters-in-syria-1-by-rebels-1.1449406)

**Assad air force back in action in Damascus, hitting rebels**

Syrian warplanes bombed rebel suburbs of Damascus on Tuesday for the first time in three weeks, in an offensive that opposition activists said showed President Bashar al-Assad no longer feared attack by the United States. Not seen in action around the capital since before Aug. 21, when hundreds of people were killed in a poison gas attack that Western powers blame on Assad, government jets mounted attacks on three areas, some in support of assaults on the ground. As world leaders discussed a Russian proposal to confiscate Syria's chemical weapons and avert US and French action, some of the heaviest fighting was in Barzeh, just north of central Damascus, where residents and opposition activists said air strikes and tank fire supported thrusts by pro-Assad militia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-syria-crisis-damascus-idUSBRE9890YY20130910**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-syria-crisis-damascus-idUSBRE9890YY20130910)

**More than four million Syrians homeless due to conflict: UN report - UNICEF mention**

A third of Syria's housing stock and thousands of schools have been destroyed during the conflict, forcing some 4.25 million people to abandon their homes, UN data and statements said on Tuesday. The homeless are mostly women, children and the elderly who fled their homes with no personal effects and are staying with other families, who are themselves surviving on very limited resources. More than 2 million more have left the country. Nearly 200,000 others are in overcrowded communal centers without clean water, electricity or sanitation, according to a report by Chaloka Beyani, the UN independent expert on the rights of internally displaced people. It said 1.2 million houses have been destroyed in the conflict that began in March 2011. More than 3,000 schools have been damaged or destroyed and almost 1,000 more are being used to house displaced people, UNICEF said. UNICEF says 2 million children have dropped out of school and a total of 4 million children are affected by the conflict, including 1 million who are now

**Reuters/Al-Akhbar -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/more-four-million-syrians-homeless-due-conflict-un-report?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+(Al+Akhbar+English)**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/more-four-million-syrians-homeless-due-conflict-un-report?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AlAkhbarEnglish+(Al+Akhbar+English))

**Yemen**

**Child bride in Yemen dies of internal bleeding on wedding night: activist**

An eight-year-old Yemeni girl died of internal bleeding on her wedding night after marrying a man five times her age, a social activist and two local residents said, in a case that has caused an outcry in the media and revived debate about child brides. Arwa Othman, head of Yemen House of Folklore and a leading rights campaigner, said the girl, identified only as Rawan, was married to a 40-year-old man late last week in the town of Meedi in Hajjah province in northwestern Yemen. "On the wedding night and after intercourse, she suffered from bleeding and uterine rupture which caused her death," Othman told Reuters. "They took her to a clinic but the medics couldn't save her life." Othman said authorities had not taken any action against the girl's family or her husband.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-yemen-childbride-idUSBRE98910N20130910**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-yemen-childbride-idUSBRE98910N20130910)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Pakistan to release top Afghan Taliban prisoner**

Pakistan has decided to release the most senior Afghan Taliban prisoner it is holding and could do so as soon as this month to jumpstart the struggling peace process, a senior Pakistani official said Tuesday. The Afghan government has long demanded that Pakistan release Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's former deputy leader. He was arrested in a joint raid with the CIA in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi in 2010.

**AP -** [**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/09/10/pakistan-afghanistan-taliban-cia/2794463/#**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/09/10/pakistan-afghanistan-taliban-cia/2794463/#)

**Afghanistan**

**4 killed, 20 missing as flood landslide hit NE Afghanistan**

Four people lost their lives and 20 others went missing as flood and landslide hit a mountainous village in Zibak district of the northeast Badakhshan province on Tuesday, a local official said Wednesday. "A heavy flood which triggered landslide hit Askitol village in Zibak district yesterday which claimed four lives and 20 others including women and children have gone missing," the governor of Zibak district, Mir Ahmad Shah Zigham told Xinhua. The natural disaster had also washed away 34 houses, 140 head cattle and destroyed 100 acres farmlands and several gardens, the official added. He also added that rescue operations are underway to recover the possible dead bodies.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/11/c\_132711666.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/11/c_132711666.htm)

**Four guilty of Delhi gang rape to be sentenced on Friday: judge**

A judge will deliver his sentence on Friday against four men convicted of killing a woman they gang-raped and tortured on a bus in New Delhi, a case that triggered outrage in India and widespread demands for the guilty to be hanged. Judge Yogesh Khanna told the court sentencing would take place at 2.30 p.m. (0900 GMT / 5:00 a.m. EDT) on Friday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-india-rape-idUSBRE98A09M20130911**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-india-rape-idUSBRE98A09M20130911)

**Pakistan**

**Violence claims 12 lives in Pakistan's Karachi**

At least 12 people were killed and several others injured in separate incidents of violence in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi over the last 24 hours despite the ongoing targeted operation by police and paramilitary troops in various areas of the city, local media and police said Wednesday. In the latest incident, a man was shot dead in downtown Nazimabad area of the city. Police said that the victim was chairperson of a mosque community and investigation into his killings are being carried out. In another incident, two people from an ethnic minority community were killed in firing by unknown gunmen at a rickshaw. The attackers fled the scene after the incident and police said that the firing might be an outcome of personal enmity. In a separate incident in the wee hours of Wednesday morning, two policemen were killed in firing by unknown gunmen at Haideri road of the city. Senior Superintendent Police of the area said that the cops were killed in firing by unknown gunmen at a police mobile.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/11/c\_132711359.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-09/11/c_132711359.htm)

TACR

**Chile**

**Clashes as Chile marks 40th anniversary of coup**

Protesters marking the 40th anniversary of Chile's military coup are clashing with police, throwing rocks and gasoline bombs and setting up flaming barricades. Police arrested 13 people early Wednesday and said a police officer was injured in overnight clashes. The anniversary of the 1973 coup that brought the dictator Augusto Pinochet to power is often marked by violence. Pinochet oversaw a fierce aerial bombardment of the presidential palace on Sept. 11, 1973. Socialist President Salvador Allende committed suicide rather than surrender.

**AP -** [**http://www.mercurynews.com/nation-world/ci\_24067503/clashes-chile-marks-40th-anniversary-coup**](http://www.mercurynews.com/nation-world/ci_24067503/clashes-chile-marks-40th-anniversary-coup)

**Mexico**

**Landslide kills eight in Mexico**

At least eight people have been killed after mud and sand slid off the side of a hill in the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz following days of heavy rain, authorities say. The landslide occurred late on Monday in the town of Manzanastitla, engulfing two homes located in the mountainous area about 200 miles (320 kilometers) east of Mexico City. Officials said two people had been rescued alive from the buried houses. Three children were among the victims. According to locals, 14 people were in the two homes at the time of the incident. The state government said rescuers were still working in the area.

**AP -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/09/10/323181/landslide-kills-8-in-eastern-mexico/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/09/10/323181/landslide-kills-8-in-eastern-mexico/)

**Venezuela**

**UN warns of negative effects of Venezuela’s withdrawal from rights convention**

The United Nations has expressed concern over Venezuela’s withdrawal from the American Human Rights Convention, which enters into force today, and stressed the move could have a negative impact on human rights not just inside the country but also in Latin America as a whole. In September last year, Venezuela announced its withdrawal from the Convention. Despite repeated calls from the UN to reconsider. “Regrettably, this withdrawal becomes effective today. We want to repeat our concern that this decision may have a very negative impact on human rights in the country and beyond,” the spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Rupert Colville, told reporters.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45808&Cr=venezuela&Cr1=#**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45808&Cr=venezuela&Cr1=#)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**11 million in Sahel face severe food insecurity**

A UN agency says 11 million people in Africa’s Sahel region still face severe food insecurity. At the same time, an emergency appeal for 113 million dollars has gone largely unmet. The Food and Agriculture Organization says the Sahel has faced food insecurity crises in 2005, 2008 and again in 2012. Those crises, it says, have “eroded the capacity of the poor to maintain or restore their livelihoods.” In Dakar, Patrick David, FAO’s deputy coordinator for food security analysis for West Africa and the Sahel, said, “There is still a lot of people in food insecurity. The people more and more find some difficulty to recover from the past crisis even if there is a good harvest because there have been pretty good harvests in 2012.”

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/fao-sahel-10sept13/1746852.html#**](http://www.voanews.com/content/fao-sahel-10sept13/1746852.html#)

**CAR**

**Central African leader sacks army chief after 100 killed in clashes**

The president of Central African Republic dismissed the head of the armed forces on Tuesday after days of fighting with gunmen loyal to ousted leader Francois Bozize that left 100 people dead, a government spokesman said. Calm returned on Tuesday after fierce clashes between government forces and pro-Bozize fighters in Bossangoa, Bozize's home region, about 300 km (185 miles) north of the capital Bangui. The fighting was the latest sign of instability since the Seleka rebel group seized power in March in the landlocked former French colony, plunging the nation of 4.5 million people into chaos and a deepening humanitarian crisis. President Michel Djotodia, the former leader of Seleka, named General Ferdinand Bombayake as the new head of the armed forces in a series of changes to military top brass, state radio announced.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-central-african-military-idUSBRE98917F20130910#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/10/us-central-african-military-idUSBRE98917F20130910#)

**DR Congo**

**'Significant progress' in Congo, M23 talks**

The Congolese government and a rebel group that is ensconced in the hills above one of the country's largest cities have made progress in talks organized by neighboring nations, according to a statement issued Tuesday. "Significant progress has been made in the dialogue," said the statement from the Office of the Facilitator of the International Conference of the Great Lakes, which is hosting the mediation effort in the capital of neighboring Uganda. Late last month, Congolese troops exchanged heavy fire with the M23 rebels, who occupy positions just outside the strategic eastern city of Goma. Aided by UN forces who pounded rebel positions with combat helicopters the Congolese were able to reclaim several areas that had been occupied by the M23, until the rebels unexpectedly declared a cease-fire, , saying they wanted to resume talks.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/significant-progress-congo-m23-talks-175441322.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/significant-progress-congo-m23-talks-175441322.html#)

**Guinea**

**Opposition gives Guinea Government ultimatum**

A spokesman for Guinea's opposition says it is giving the country's election commission 72 hours to restore the nation's previous roll of registered voters or it will pull out of the elections and start street protests. The ultimatum issued Monday by opposition spokesman Aboubacar Sylla expires on Thursday. It comes just weeks before Guinea is expected to hold a much-delayed parliamentary election on Sept. 24. The poll has been repeatedly rescheduled as the opposition and the ruling party wrangle over the preparations for the vote. It's meant that the West African nation has been without a functioning legislature for years. Sylla said that the electoral roll, which was recently made public, is made up "of 80 percent of people who are pro-RPG," he said, referring to the ruling party.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/opposition-guinea-government-ultimatum-20212923#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/opposition-guinea-government-ultimatum-20212923#)

**Guinea-Bissau**

**Guinea-Bissau rules out amnesty for coup leaders**

Guinea-Bissau's parliament rejected a bill on Tuesday that would have granted amnesty to the leaders of the latest of a long line of military coups last year, according to an AFP journalist in the chamber. The motion put forward by the transitional government needed a majority among the country's 100 lawmakers but just 40 gave it the go-ahead, with a quarter of lawmakers absent, according to acting speaker Braima Sori Djalo. "That's democracy. Every member voted according to his conscience," he said. Guinea-Bissau, a nation of just 1.6 million people, has suffered chronic instability since independence from Portugal in 1974.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/guinea-bissau-rules-amnesty-coup-leaders-192433578.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/guinea-bissau-rules-amnesty-coup-leaders-192433578.html#)

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