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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Angolan forces detain soldiers from Republic of Congo**

Authorities in Republic of Congo say more than 40 members of the military are being detained by soldiers from Angola. An officer based at the police station in Dolisie, reported that the Angolan forces arrived on the weekend. Military officials reported that the Angolan forces were pursuing Cabinda separatist rebels who have used Congolese soil to regroup. But Angola's ambassador in Brazzaville denied the Angolan army had entered Republic of Congo.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/republic-congo-angolan-forces-detain-soldiers-20602418**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/republic-congo-angolan-forces-detain-soldiers-20602418)

**India, China near pact aimed at keeping lid on border tension**

India and China are close to an agreement to stop tension on their contested border touching off confrontation while they try to figure out a way to break decades-old stalemate on overlapping claims to long stretches of the Himalayas. The border defence cooperation pact that diplomats are racing to finalise ahead of PM Manmohan Singh's visit to China next week is a small step forward in a complicated relationship marked by booming economic ties but also growing distrust. In May, the two armies ended a three-week standoff in the western Himalayas after Chinese troops set up a camp at least 10km inside territory claimed by India, triggering a public outcry and calls that India should stand up to its powerful neighbour. China denied that troops had crossed into Indian territory. Under the new agreement, the two nuclear-armed sides will give notice of patrols along the ill-defined border. They will ensure that patrols do not "tail" each other to reduce the chance of confrontation.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018044859-a6z1y**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018044859-a6z1y)

**China outraged as Japanese lawmakers visit shrine to war dead**

Japan's internal affairs minister and more than 100 other lawmakers visited the Yasukuni Shrine for war dead on Friday and China responded by accusing Japan of undermining ties and trying to overturn the post-World War Two order. The visits, marking an autumn festival, came a day after PM Shinzo Abe made his third ritual offering to the shrine since returning to office last year, though he did not visit it in person. Abe has stayed away from the shrine in central Tokyo, where war criminals are honoured along with other war dead, to avoid further straining ties with China and South Korea, both victims of Japan's militarism before its surrender in 1945.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018100411-63cia/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018100411-63cia/?source=hpbreaking)

**Panama to send detained North Korean crew, ship home - minister**

The North Korean crew and ship detained in Panama for smuggling Cuban weapons three months ago will soon be returned to the reclusive Asian nation, Panama's FM said Thursday. The crew's return would mark the end of a bizarre chapter between the three countries that provoked international controversy after the ship was seized in July for smuggling military-style arms under 10,000 tons of sugar. While the UNSC has yet to decide on penalties against [Cuba](http://uk.reuters.com/places/cuba?lc=int_mb_1001), given a 7-year-old ban against arms transfers to [North Korea](http://uk.reuters.com/places/north-korea?lc=int_mb_1001) due to the country's nuclear weapons program, the arms will likely be sold or given away, Nunez Fabrega added.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/18/uk-panama-northkorea-ship-idUKBRE99H04E20131018**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/18/uk-panama-northkorea-ship-idUKBRE99H04E20131018)

**Morocco stops 700 migrants from entering Europe**

More than 700 migrants trying to reach Europe have been prevented from doing so by Morocco, according to authorities there. Some 300 of them apparently tried to force their way into Spain’s disputed enclave of Ceuta on the north Moroccan coast. Morocco says that seven members of its security forces were injured in clashes.

**Euronews-** [**http://en-maktoob.screen.yahoo.com/morocco-stops-700-migrants-entering-053206409.html**](http://en-maktoob.screen.yahoo.com/morocco-stops-700-migrants-entering-053206409.html)

CEE/CIS

**Russia/ N. Caucasus**

**Blast at mosque in Russia's North Caucasus kills suspected bombers**

A bomb exploded outside a mosque in Russia's North Caucasus on Friday, killing two suspected suicide bombers in a region where Moscow is battling an Islamist insurgency. Russian security forces are trying to quell the unrest in the mostly Muslim region only hundreds of kilometres away from President Vladimir Putin's planned venue for the 2014 Winter Olympics. The blast occurred at 3.00 a.m. local time at the entrance to a cemetery outside a mosque in the village of Dygulubgey in the Kabardino-Balkaria region, local investigators said in a statement. Attacks in Kabardino-Balkaria are less common than in the nearby province of Dagestan, but Dygulubgey has been the scene of several insurgent attacks and shootouts with police in recent months.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018073706-oqtht**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018073706-oqtht)

**Ukraine**

**Leader says will sign law to release Tymoshenko**

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said he is ready to sign a law to allow jailed opponent Yulia Tymoshenko to go abroad for treatment, in an attempt to clear the way for the signing of a landmark agreement with the EU. However, Yanukovich, whose comments were reported on his official web site, made no mention of pardoning his opponent - something the EU has been pressing for in negotiations for her release. Tymoshenko, 52, his fiercest political rival, was jailed in 2011 for seven years for abuse of office after what the EU said was a political trial which smacked of "selective justice."

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/18/uk-ukraine-tymoshenko-idUKBRE99H05220131018**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/18/uk-ukraine-tymoshenko-idUKBRE99H05220131018)

EAPR

**Philippines**

**"Trapped" quake survivors need more help**

As rescuers and aid workers struggle to reach central Philippine townships hit by a powerful quake, shell-shocked survivors await assistance in open air camps. The number of displaced is more than 150,000, according to the government. The 7.2-magnitude quake, one of the most powerful to strike the nation in decades, destroyed buildings and triggered landslides that buried many homes. Of the more than three million people affected, 97,618 are in 85 evacuation centres in Bohol and Cebu provinces, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported on Thursday, while another 60,848 were being assisted outside. On Wednesday, a joint team from the DSWD and the HCT was deployed to the area, including the town of Carmen, the quake's epicentre, to conduct a rapid needs assessment for Bohol, OCHA reported.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98956/trapped-philippine-quake-survivors-need-more-help**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98956/trapped-philippine-quake-survivors-need-more-help)

**Myanmar**

**Bombers trying to scare investors: police**

Police say bombings that have rocked Myanmar in the last week were aimed at scaring away foreign investors. The country's police chief, Zaw Win, said Friday that a man identified as Nato promised a former member of the [Karen National Union](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fworld&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Karen+National+Union%22) ethnic rebels a gold mine permit if he succeeded in planting bombs at luxury hotels and restaurants. He said the alleged assailant, Saw Myint Lwin, was given $500 and a bag of locally made explosives. The 25-year-old allegedly checked into a room at the Traders Hotel in Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital, on Sunday night, attached a small bomb to the back of the toilet, and timed it to go off within 48 hours. The bomb detonated just before midnight Monday, injuring an American woman.

**AP-** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Myanmar-police-Bombers-trying-to-scare-investors-4906486.php**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Myanmar-police-Bombers-trying-to-scare-investors-4906486.php)

ESAR

**Ethiopia**

**Police torture political detainees - Human Rights Watch**

Ethiopian police investigators in Addis Ababa's main detention centre have tortured political detainees and regularly mistreat people in custody to extract confessions, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported on Friday. The Ethiopian government, long seen by the West as a bulwark against militant Islam in the Horn of Africa, has denied frequent accusations that it uses state institutions to stifle dissent and silence political opposition. In a report about conditions inside Addis Ababa's Federal Police Crime Investigation Sector, known as Maekelawi, HRW said many former detainees were slapped, kicked and beaten with sticks and gun butts during investigations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131017235053-jkdwz/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131017235053-jkdwz/?source=hpbreaking)

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/10/17/ethiopia-political-detainees-tortured**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/10/17/ethiopia-political-detainees-tortured)

**Kenya**

**Westgate mall bodies 'probably gunmen'**

Two charred bodies pulled from Kenya's Westgate shopping centre on Thursday are "highly likely" to be two of the attackers, an MP has told the BBC. Ndung'u Gethenji, chairman of the committee investigating the attack, said AK47 rifles used by the militants were found next to the bodies. The authorities will now conduct forensic tests on the bodies. At least 67 people died when suspected al-Shabab militants stormed the Nairobi shopping centre on 21 September. The attack sparked a four-day siege in which large parts of the shopping centre were destroyed.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24577711**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24577711)

**Mozambique**

**Renamo rebels kill 7 soldiers: local media**

Suspected Renamo guerrillas killed seven Mozambican soldiers in an ambush on Thursday near the former rebel group's remote mountain hideout, local media said, the latest flare-up in a simmering insurgency. Ministry of Defense spokesman Cristovao Chume confirmed the attack on a military patrol near Gorongosa, in the middle of the war-scarred southern African nation, but denied that any soldiers had been killed. He told reporters two Renamo militiamen had been killed in an exchange of fire.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-mozambique-guerrillas-20131017,0,95556.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-mozambique-guerrillas-20131017,0,95556.story)

**South Africa**

**Mine workers union says Lonmin activist shot dead**

South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said on Friday one of its shaft chairpersons at platinum producer Lonmin was shot dead in the restive platinum belt town of Marikana, an incident sure to stoke labour tensions. "He was killed last night. We don't know why at this stage, but there appears to be a resurgence of violence in the area," NUM spokesman Lesiba Seshoka said. NUM has had tens of thousands of members in the platinum shafts poached by a rival group, the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), in a turf war that killed dozens of people in 2012. Sporadic killings have occurred this year. Police spokesman Thulani Ngubane confirmed a man was gunned down on Thursday night but did not release his name and said the reason for the shooting was unknown.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018054702-do4sj/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018054702-do4sj/?source=hpbreaking)

**Authorities arrest five for rape, murder of two toddlers**

South African police arrested five men for the rape and murder of two toddlers this week that sparked rioting in a restive shantytown northwest of Johannesburg, a spokesman said Friday. "The fifth (suspect) was arrested this morning," said police spokesman Lungelo Dlamini. Four others detained earlier would appear in court Friday, he added. "Charges against them will be kidnapping, rape, and murder," he said. A resident discovered the bodies of the girls, aged two and three, early Tuesday in a communal toilet. They had been missing since Saturday. Their rape and strangulation caused uproar and angry members of the community in the densely-populated working class shantytown rioted and blocked the streets with rocks and rubble.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/south-africa-arrests-five-rape-murder-two-toddlers-112204853.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/south-africa-arrests-five-rape-murder-two-toddlers-112204853.html)

**Uganda**

**US warns of “Westgate- style” attack in Kampala**

The US Mission in Uganda is warning of the possibility of a “Westgate-style” terrorist attack in Kampala anytime. In a security alert issued on Tuesday, the embassy says it “continues to assess reports that a Westgate-style attack may soon occur in Kampala.” Embassy officials are sharing all information with the Ugandan authorities, according to the alert, and “at this time, there is no further information on timing, and or, location of this attack.” Uganda Police on Wednesday, confirmed receiving the US embassy alert which has since triggered a deluge of emergency security measures. According to spokesperson of the force, Ms Judith Nabakooba, the Inspector General of Police Kale Kayihura constituted a multi-agency ad hoc committee, comprising private security organisations, to review operational security procedures at all public places.

**Monitor -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/US-warns-of--Westgate---style--attack-in-Kampala/-/688334/2035674/-/ahnap3/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/US-warns-of--Westgate---style--attack-in-Kampala/-/688334/2035674/-/ahnap3/-/index.html)

LAC

**Haiti**

**Thousands at anti-government protests**

Thousands of protesters took the streets of Haiti Thursday to call for the resignation of President Michel Martelly as they railed against poverty and unemployment. In the capital Port-au-Prince, opposition party chiefs and parliamentarians joined a mostly young crowd, which authorities broke up just meters from the presidential palace. Shots rang out and police used tear gas as some youths tried to break through barricades. "People are living in misery," the demonstrators shouted as they made their way through the poverty-stricken capital. "Corruption and hunger are rising across the country, Martelly must go!" In the northern city of Cap-Haitian, thousands of protesters held up plates and spoons as they marched through the streets.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131017/thousands-at-anti-government-protests-haiti**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131017/thousands-at-anti-government-protests-haiti)

MENA

**Iran**

**Judges are sanctioning child rape – activists**

More than 1,500 girls under the age of 10 were forcibly married in Iran last year, according to rights campaigners who accused judges in the country of sanctioning child rape. Activists also condemned a law passed this month that will allow men to marry their adopted daughters from the age of 13. They said Iran was legalising child sex abuse within the family. Marriage records in Iran show 31,364 girls under 15 were married off last year, including 1,537 who were under 10, according to a report called Stolen Lives, Empty Classrooms by London-based pressure group Justice For Iran. But researchers said the actual figure would be higher as they could only obtain records for three-quarters of Iran’s 32 provinces while many child marriages are not registered. “I was very shocked by the statistics. Every 15 minutes a young girl is forced into a marriage that may put her at risk of rape, domestic abuse and death in child birth,” said researcher Leila Moeeni.

Campaigners say many girls who marry young die from childbirth complications, while others are driven to suicide. There are also reports of very young girls dying from injuries caused by sexual intercourse after marriage. The law in Iran allows girls to be married at 13 and boys at 15, but girls can be married younger with a judge’s permission.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018110657-wmqo8/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018110657-wmqo8/?source=hptop)

**Iraq**

**Wave of car, suicide blasts kill at least 61**

A barrage of car bomb and suicide bomb blasts rocked Baghdad and two northern Iraqi communities Thursday, killing at least 61 people during a major holiday period and extending a relentless wave of bloodshed gripping the country. The bulk of the blasts struck in mainly Shiite Muslim parts of the Iraqi capital shortly after nightfall, sending ambulances racing through the streets with sirens blaring. Authorities reported nine car bomb explosions across Baghdad, including one near a playground that killed two children. It was the deadliest day in Iraq since 5 October, when a suicide bombing targeting Shiite pilgrims and other attacks left at least 75 dead.

**AP -** [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=236026556**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=236026556)

**Secondary education critical so Syrian youth won't feel lost, stresses UNICEF**

UNICEF’s Maulid Warfa inspects the refugee camps of Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan, with empathy, and with concern about the lack of secondary education. UNICEF Iraq’s South Zone Chief is based in Basra, but he’s come north to help with the influx of more than 61,000 refugees who have arrived from the Syrian since the middle of August. UNICEF has established schools for Grades 1 through 9, but there is little for older children. UNICEF has warned of a ‘lost generation’ if more is not done to support all the needs of Syrian children. Maulid uses Somali pirates as an example of what happens when children grow up and feel they have no option but crime.

**UNICEF-** [**http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq\_70672.html**](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq_70672.html)

**Libya**

**Militia rivalries threaten new war in post-revolt Libya**

When gunmen snatched Libyan PM Ali Zeidan from his Tripoli hotel last week, it was a rival armed militia he thanked for his rescue hours later. Even for Libyans accustomed to their democracy's unruly beginnings, the drama at the Corinthia Hotel was a startling reminder of the power former fighters wield two years after they ousted Muammar Gaddafi, and the dangers of their rivalry. Police and troops from Libya's nascent army were at the scene, but the former militiamen showed they are the arbiters in a struggle between rival tribal and Islamist leaders over the post-revolution spoils of the North African oil producer. Between them, they have edged Libya close to a new war that threatens the democratic gains of the NATO-backed revolt.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018062204-dg0i3/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018062204-dg0i3/?source=hpbreaking)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Security Council seat declined, cites failure to halt wars**

Saudi Arabia said on Friday it would not take up its rotating seat on the UNSC, citing "double standards" which it said hampered the world body's ability to end conflicts. It is the second time this month that Saudi Arabia has publicly expressed discontent over what it sees as the UNSC's failure to take action to stop a civil war in Syria that has killed more than 100,000 people. "The kingdom sees that the method and work mechanism and the double standards in the Security Council prevent it from properly shouldering its responsibilities towards world peace," the foreign ministry said in a statement carried by state news agency SPA.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018091439-j1oid/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018091439-j1oid/?source=hpbreaking)

**State of Palestine**

**Israeli watchdog reports spike in settlements**

An Israeli anti-settlement watchdog group says there has been a dramatic spike in West Bank settlement construction this year. Peace Now said Thursday that there has been a 70 percent increase in housings starts in the first six months of 2013 compared to the same period the previous year. It said its data was based on a survey of aerial photos and a count of all housings units built in each settlement. Palestinians consider settlements a major obstacle to establishing a state that includes the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 war. Israel has since built dozens of settlements that are now home to about 550,000 Israelis.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israeli-watchdog-reports-spike-settlements-20601163**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israeli-watchdog-reports-spike-settlements-20601163)

**Israeli troops kill Palestinian who rammed army base**

A Palestinian man who used a tractor to break into an Israeli army base in the West Bank has been shot and killed by soldiers, according to a spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces. The man broke down the gate to the base, between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Military doctors treated the man for his injuries but he died a short time later. There were no Israeli injuries. Palestinian sources told AFP that the dead man was named Yusef Ahmed al-Radaydeh. Israeli media reports say Radaydeh was the brother of Miri al-Radaydeh, who rammed a bus and a police car, injuring two policemen, with a bulldozer before being shot dead, in Jerusalem in 2009.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24575427**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24575427)

**Syria**

**Fierce clashes in east as US pushes talks**

Fierce fighting raged Friday in Syria's east, where rebels killed a top intelligence officer and executed 10 soldiers, as the US pushed for new peace talks. US officials said Secretary of State John Kerry would head to Europe for discussions on a planned peace conference in Geneva, which a Syrian official said could come at the end of November. But the prospects for the conference, dubbed Geneva 2, remain unclear, with the Syrian opposition divided and due to vote next week on whether to take part. On the ground, the [Syrian Observatory](javascript:void(0)) for Human Rights reported fierce clashes that began in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor overnight continued on Friday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-18/234956-fierce-clashes-in-syrias-deir-ezzor-activists.ashx#ixzz2i48Rzv6U**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-18/234956-fierce-clashes-in-syrias-deir-ezzor-activists.ashx#ixzz2i48Rzv6U)

**Jets bomb eastern city after intelligence general killed**

Syrian air force jets bombarded the eastern city of Deir al-Zor on Friday after heavy overnight clashes and the killing of one of President Bashar al-Assad's top military intelligence officers, activists said. General Jama'a Jama'a was shot dead on Thursday by snipers in the midst of a battle with rebels including forces linked to al Qaeda, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. His death, celebrated by rebels and opposition activists, marked a significant setback for Assad's bid to retain a hold over the city, capital of the eastern oil-producing province.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018110816-b45ym/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018110816-b45ym/?source=hpbreaking)

**Tunisia**

**Gunmen kill two police in northern city**

Islamist militants killed two Tunisian policemen in clashes on Thursday in the northeastern city of Goubellat, a security source told Reuters. Gunmen linked to groups such as Ansar al-Sharia carry out occasional attacks on security forces in Tunisia, where soldiers have been tracking down Islamist militants in the Mount Chaambi region bordering Algeria. On Wednesday night, gunmen also attacked a police station in Ghar Dimaou near the Algerian frontier but fled without causing any casualties.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/17/us-tunisia-security-idUSBRE99G0LS20131017**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/17/us-tunisia-security-idUSBRE99G0LS20131017)

**Shelling on Kurdish town kills 12 as 20 troops die in Aleppo clashes**

Syrian regime shelling killed 12 people Friday in a Kurdish town in Aleppo province, where 20 soldiers and seven rebels were killed in clashes at a military base, an NGO said. "Twelve Kurdish citizens, including six children... were killed in government shelling of an area in the town of Tal-Aran," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, adding that at least 11 other people were wounded. The Observatory said another nine people had been killed in shelling on Tal-Aran and the surrounding area on Thursday, including five children, bringing the toll in 24 hours to 21 people. Tal-Aran is considered strategic because of its location on the main road between Aleppo city and Sfeireh, which is near a military site believed to hold some of the regime's chemical arms.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/102561-12-dead-in-syrian-shelling-on-kurdish-town**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/102561-12-dead-in-syrian-shelling-on-kurdish-town)

**Yemen**

**Suicide bomber kills 12 soldiers in south**

A suicide car bomber killed 12 soldiers and wounded six others Friday in an attack on a military command centre in southern Yemen's Abyan province, security and military sources said. The attack in the district of Ahwar targeted the command centre of the 111th Brigade, the security source said, adding that the commander of the brigade was "seriously" wounded in the blast. The sources gave an initial toll of six dead, but said later that it had doubled to 12. The commander was still among the six wounded. The military source said the bomber had used an armoured vehicle to carry out the attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.  
**AFP-** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-18/234960-suicide-bomber-kills-6-soldiers-in-south-yemen.ashx#ixzz2i42DrJ3Q**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-18/234960-suicide-bomber-kills-6-soldiers-in-south-yemen.ashx#ixzz2i42DrJ3Q)

ROSA

**India**

**Anger grows over aid delays among cyclone survivors**

Anger over the slow and patchy delivery of aid is growing amongst survivors of a fierce cyclone that battered India's east coast almost a week ago and the delays have sparked protests and looting in some areas, aid workers said on Friday. Phailin, recorded as the most powerful storm to hit the region in 14 years, disrupted the lives of almost 12 million people and killed at least 43. "The government has been providing food and clean water and some shelter materials, but there are still places where people have not received anything at all," said John Shumlansky, country director for aid group Catholic Relief Services. Hundreds of cyclone survivors protested over the lack of aid in the worst-hit district of Ganjam on Wednesday, blocking a major highway and causing congestion. Similar demonstrations have been reported in at least two other districts. Some cyclone survivors have also looted relief supplies from government vehicles and shelters. Police arrested 18 people in Khurda district after a mob looted polythene rolls that were to be used for shelter from a relief truck, officials said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018102931-j49su/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018102931-j49su/?source=hptop)

**Cyclone exposes need for safer housing**

Hundreds of thousands of people are returning to their homes along India’s eastern coast, after being evacuated from the destructive path of Cyclone Phailin a few days ago, only to find their mud and thatch dwellings in ruins. Flimsy roofs were blown away by storm winds that reached up to 136 miles per hour, and mud walls have been destroyed by heavy rains or washed away by the floods that are still raging in 10 rivers. According to the latest data, the powerful storm damaged almost 377,000 houses, a number that is likely to rise as surveys continue. The strongest cyclone to hit India since 1999 affected some 12 million people in 17 out of Odisha’s 30 districts, according to the disaster management department. In Ganjam district alone, where the storm made landfall, 230,000 houses were damaged.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018105250-0q5xz/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018105250-0q5xz/?source=hptop)

**Cyclone Phailin has damaged 5,825 schools in Odisha**

As per the preliminary damage report with the department of schools and education in Odisha, Cyclone Phailin has damaged as many as 5,825 educational institutions. As many as 4,685 elementary schools have been damaged; 1,135 high schools and five teacher-training institutions. All the elementary schools, 'pucca' buildings, had been constructed with funds from the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan after 2001. While one batch of schools lost out to Phailin, another, about 5,000, shelter people evacuated from coastal regions. The Secretary in the department of schools and education said that about 11,000 teachers were called in to man the free kitchens.

**Times of India -**

[**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cyclone-Phailin-has-damaged-5825-schools-in-Odisha/articleshow/24302198.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cyclone-Phailin-has-damaged-5825-schools-in-Odisha/articleshow/24302198.cms)

**Maldives**

**New election in doubt as challengers dither over list**

Hopes that a presidential election in the Maldives would go ahead on the weekend faded on Friday with a new voter registry not ready because of objections from challengers to the country's first democratically elected leader. The country has been in turmoil since February last year when Mohamed Nasheed, who in 2008 won the Maldives' first free elections, was ousted in disputed circumstances that his supporters called a coup.

Nasheed looked set to win a run-off vote on Sept. 28, after he came first in a Sept. 7 first round, but the Supreme Court called off the vote, citing first-round fraud. The election was re-scheduled for Saturday but Election Commissioner Fuwad Thowfeek said it was in question as the parties of two contestants who lost last time had yet to sign a new voter registry

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131018080337-14az7/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131018080337-14az7/?source=hpbreaking)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso ink deal to fight child trafficking**

The first ladies of Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso sealed an agreement to fight the growing child trafficking between the two nations. Cote d'Ivoire is a large centre for regional child trafficking, with children from countries such as Burkina Faso and Mali ending up working on its plantations. Burkinabe first lady Chantal Compaore said the number of children who had fallen prey to trafficking had tripled in the past three years from 588 in 2010 to 1895 in 2012. Her Ivorian counterpart Dominique Ouattara cited a 2011 study saying that 39% of Ivorian children between the ages of five and 14 worked in their country, which often comes under fire from NGOs for child labour. The two countries signed an accord to "elaborate and put in place plans of action, programmes and regional projects to fight against child trafficking."

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jv-tDY0cBtOmFreKRwG7XUDdTjxw?docId=64b7650e-584e-4fc2-b268-61277c51ed89&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jv-tDY0cBtOmFreKRwG7XUDdTjxw?docId=64b7650e-584e-4fc2-b268-61277c51ed89&hl=en)

**Cameroon**

**Ruling party declared election winner**

Cameroonian President's ruling party, in power for three decades, kept its grip on a parliamentary majority by sweeping up 148 of 180 seats, official election results showed. However despite the victory, Cameroonian People's Democratic Movement (RDPC) lost five lawmakers compared to the 153 seats held previously. The Social Democratic Front (SDP) remains the main opposition party, and won 18 seats in the 30 September election, two more than held previously. The RDPC also won a crushing victory in local elections held on the same day. More than 40 submissions were made to the Supreme Court seeking the partial annulment of the vote, none of which were successful.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j1YVJpg8ScyeFzjNYferDrjV6enw?docId=26ac88e9-6bf8-4d67-882c-25f3beaa9aa8&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j1YVJpg8ScyeFzjNYferDrjV6enw?docId=26ac88e9-6bf8-4d67-882c-25f3beaa9aa8&hl=en)

**CAR**

**Terror grips the country**

The crisis in CAR is deepening more than six months after a coup by the Séléka rebel coalition. Hundreds of civilians have been killed in violence since the March coup, thousands have fled their homes, basic services have been adversely affected and senior humanitarian figures have warned of a possible spillover of violence into neighbouring countries. Ouham Province in the northwest is among those worst affected by violence. The violence in Ouham has pushed at least 170,000 people into the forest or into Bossangoa. In Bossangoa, about 36,000 people are seeking refuge at a church, a provincial administration office, and at a local school, according to a report by OCHA. Some schools which had reopened have been closed, especially in the provinces of Ouham, Ouham-Pendé and Ouaka due to the insecurity, according to OCHA.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98955/briefing-terror-grips-central-african-republic**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98955/briefing-terror-grips-central-african-republic)

**UN and NGO emergency directors to visit – UNICEF mention**

The Emergency Directors for OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, IMC, Mercy Corps and a Representative of FAO are scheduled to visit the CAR from 17 to 19 October. The three-day joint mission aims to take stock of the humanitarian crisis and response in CAR. The delegation is expected to discuss ways of enhancing support for the humanitarian response in CAR and how to support a more resilience-oriented recovery with the Central African authorities and other humanitarian partners. The Directors are also expected to raise issues of humanitarian access and protection of civilians with interlocutors. On Friday, the delegation is scheduled to travel to the northern towns of Bossangoa (Ouham Province) and Kaga Bandoro (Nana Gribizi Province) to see for themselves the humanitarian impact of the crisis and the on-going relief efforts.

**OCHA -**

[**http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Media%20Advisory\_OCHA\_EN\_16%20October\_2013.pdf**](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Media%20Advisory_OCHA_EN_16%20October_2013.pdf)

**DR Congo**

**Displaced families at risk as food aid dries up**

Some of the most haunting victims of the two decades of conflict ravaging eastern DRC are the starving children, and with WFP struggling to fund its operations here, their fate looks likely to get worse. At the Mugunga I refugee camp, where more than 50,000 displaced people live crowded together under white tents, hundreds of mothers line up at the health centre to get a special liquid called "premix", a porridge of maize meal, soy, oil and sugar that provides their children 1,057 precious calories. The programme has rescued more than 900 children from malnutrition in the past 10 months. But its future is threatened by the financial troubles WFP is facing in DRC. WFP has been hit by a funding shortfall because of budget constraints in economically stagnant donor countries and emergencies such as the Syria conflict that have devoured resources that would have otherwise been spent elsewhere. WFP must come up with $70 million to fund its operations for the next six months. The problem stretches beyond the Mugunga camp. WFP had planned to give food aid to 4.2 million people in the country by the end of 2015.

**AFP** - [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131017-dr-congos-displaced-families-risk-food-aid-dries**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131017-dr-congos-displaced-families-risk-food-aid-dries)

**US urges government, rebels to reach peace deal**

The US called on the DRC and opposition rebels to end months of dragging negotiations and conclude a peace deal. The talks in Kampala, Ugandan began in September, but have yet to make any real progress. The US special envoy to the Great Lakes Russ Feingold and the UN special envoy Mary Robinson are both in the region hoping to push the negotiations along.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gaXyggy07nJtvxrjcKWCYqHKqaAA?docId=47838845-0541-4294-b2d5-baa5d52b8aef&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gaXyggy07nJtvxrjcKWCYqHKqaAA?docId=47838845-0541-4294-b2d5-baa5d52b8aef&hl=en)

**Backlash fears after “Islamist” attacks in east**

"Eight months ago no one had heard of Al-Shabab," said Henri Ladyi, a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) expert and director of the Conflict Resolution Centre (CRC) in Beni, a town and territory in North Kivu Province in northeastern DRC. Ladyi is concerned that rumours about the influence of Somalia-based Islamists in Beni, whether true or not, are unravelling gains made by the CRC in recent years. The UN, Congolese and Ugandan authorities have drawn links between the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan rebel group operating in the Ruwenzori Mountains just across the DRC border, and Al-Shabab. Civil society leaders in Beni say it was because of such links that ADF activity has seen a resurgence. In late September, the group killed five people in Beni Territory and kidnapped 36, according to the UN-run Radio Okapi. Witnesses said the rebels went into a health centre where they terrorized patients before tying up and abducting two nurses.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98957/backlash-fears-after-islamist-attacks-in-eastern-drc**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98957/backlash-fears-after-islamist-attacks-in-eastern-drc)

**Guinea**

**Opposition secures key seat in tense parliament vote**

Guinea's election authorities declared an opposition politician winner of the country's most hotly contested parliamentary seat, a result that should ease tensions and is likely to deny the ruling party of an outright majority. Final results from the 28 September vote are due on Friday, but the announcement of the result from Matoto, a heavily populated district in Conakry, came after days of recounting and diplomatic pressure to avoid threatened street protests. Mohamed Aly Doumbouya, a candidate for the opposition UFR party, won the Matoto seat, defeating the ruling party candidate by a slim margin, according to the election commission. The result means the ruling RPG party won 18 of the 38 seats contested in the direct vote. The opposition UFDG and UFR parties won 14 and 5 seats, respectively, in the direct vote. The remaining 76 seats in parliament will be decided by proportional representation.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131017224620-s7myn**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131017224620-s7myn)

**Mali**

**France to keep 2,000 troops in country until end of year**

France will maintain around 2,000 troops in Mali to help secure the December legislative polls before further scaling down its military presence, the French defence minister reported. It currently has 3,000 troops left on the ground and aims to scale back its presence to only 1,000 by the end of January 2014. Mali's first parliamentary polls since a coup in March last year are due to begin on November 24 and a second round is scheduled for December 15. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was sworn in as president last month after an August election.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131017/france-keep-2000-troops-mali-until-end-year**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131017/france-keep-2000-troops-mali-until-end-year)

**Corrupt police blamed as militants return to streets**

The city of Gao is once again under attack by militants, but Malians' anger is increasingly directed at allegedly corrupt security services and a government failing to address grinding poverty. In the latest spate of attacks, militants wounded two civilians when they blew up a bridge a week ago, a day after shelling the town and injuring a soldier. But while the residents of Gao have become used to living under fire, many say they were unprepared for the militants acting with near-impunity, regularly let back on the streets by police for the sake of a small bribe.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jgR8wpZfPQuwNfpb0\_mt92Pnm\_aA?docId=e3774893-9f00-4f67-b45a-370fe65d7d4b&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jgR8wpZfPQuwNfpb0_mt92Pnm_aA?docId=e3774893-9f00-4f67-b45a-370fe65d7d4b&hl=en)

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