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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**TB numbers fall, but 3 million undiagnosed: WHO**

WHO says the number of people diagnosed with tuberculosis fell slightly last year but 3 million people are going undiagnosed and untreated. WHO estimated 8.6 million people were diagnosed with TB and 1.3 million died in 2012. TB most often attacks the lungs and can usually be treated with antibiotics. The agency on Wednesday also noted a rise in drug-resistant strains, which require more toxic and expensive drugs. WHO said at least 16,000 people with drug-resistant TB aren't being treated worldwide. The agency's numbers were based largely on estimates from governments and it has no solid data on how much drug-resistant TB is spreading.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/tb-numbers-fall-million-undiagnosed-20653959**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/tb-numbers-fall-million-undiagnosed-20653959)

**Clooney satellite warns Sudan’s civilians of military buildup**

George Clooney’s Satellite Sentinel Project (SSP) issued a “human security warning” for civilians living in Sudan’s war-torn South Kordofan region and in the disputed Abyei area on Tuesday, saying images of a military buildup could signal a new government offensive. DigitalGlobe [**imagery**](http://www.satsentinel.org/sites/default/files/reports/Human%20Security%20Warning%20-%20Satellite%20Imagery%2010.22.13.pdf) showed attack helicopters, support and transport aircraft had arrived at El Obeid air base in neighbouring North Kordofan, and the number of helicopters and transport aircraft stationed at Kadugli air base in South Kordofan had almost tripled, the SSP said. On the ground, it said there was an increase in the number of tanks and other vehicles stationed in garrisons in El Obeid and Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131023120109-hgvmb/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131023120109-hgvmb/?source=hpbreaking)

**China/India**

**China and India sign border defence agreement**

China and India signed an agreement on border defence cooperation Wednesday, after a stand-off along a disputed border in April stoked fears of conflict between the Asian giants. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, visiting Beijing to seek a breakthrough in the border row that has soured relations for decades, witnessed the signing of the agreement alongside Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. The agreement will "help to maintain peace, tranquility and stability in our border areas", Li said following the ceremony. No further details on the pact were immediately available, but it was expected to include provisions for better communications between the two armies.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jluBIVdhaeuKetrUqws9TYLpZh\_w?docId=0ac0992a-721a-42d7-8e56-07f4e53f96fd**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jluBIVdhaeuKetrUqws9TYLpZh_w?docId=0ac0992a-721a-42d7-8e56-07f4e53f96fd)

**Sudan/South Sudan**

**Sudan, South Sudan agree to expedite determination of zero line, establish demilitarized zone**

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir Mayardit on Tuesday agreed to expedite the determination of the zero line to establish a safe demilitarized zone in the border area before mid-November. According to a joint communique issued at the conclusion of joint talks between al-Bashir and Kiir in the South Sudanese capital of Juba, the two sides agreed to coordinate together to prevent supporting and hosting of armed movements. They also agreed to expedite establishment of Abyei administration, its legislative council together with the police bodies, stressing that the 2 percent share, which is specified for the area from the oil revenues, is to be paid.

According to the communique, the two sides agreed to pardon the holders of diplomatic passports in the two countries from entry visa as a first step toward facilitating the movement of citizens and opening the border passages between the two countries.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/23/c\_125581944.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/23/c_125581944.htm)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Fresh protests in Cambodia over disputed poll**

Thousands of Cambodia opposition supporters staged a demonstration amid high security Wednesday over fiercely disputed elections that extended strongman Prime Minister Hun Sen's near three-decade rule, following bloody protests last month. Thousands of riot police were deployed along the streets and at significant locations in Phnom Penh on Wednesday morning to meet the first major show of strength by the opposition since tens of thousands of its supporters joined three days of rallies in the capital in September. Those demonstrations left one protester dead and several wounded after security forces clashed with a stone-throwing crowd. Protesters are due to march to the UN human rights office in the capital on Wednesday afternoon to deliver the petition. They also plan to take the document to a number of foreign embassies, including those of France, the US, Britain and China over the coming days.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gijMxCMPngNKP0UPjuhq3Snnb1Qw?docId=0348f5d9-2234-462e-8fd0-8e5b339c6482**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gijMxCMPngNKP0UPjuhq3Snnb1Qw?docId=0348f5d9-2234-462e-8fd0-8e5b339c6482)

**China**

**High waves expected on China's eastern coast**

China's maritime authorities on Wednesday issued a yellow warning for waves brought by the approaching Typhoon Francisco and cold air. Under the influence of a cold front, the southeast coast was washed by waves over two meters high on Wednesday afternoon, the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center said. Francisco, the 27th typhoon of the year, will bring waves as high as six meters to the East China Sea and Taiwan Strait from Wednesday till Thursday night. The typhoon is expected to whip up peaks of up to 3.5 meters along the coast of Shanghai, Zhejiang and Fujian.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off\_the\_Wire/2013-10/23/content\_30384023.htm**](http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2013-10/23/content_30384023.htm)

**Indonesia**

**Indonesian earthquake kills 1, injures 2**

A moderate earthquake killed one villager, injured two others and damaged more than a hundred houses in western Indonesia on Tuesday, a disaster official said. The quake measured magnitude 5.3 and was centered about 32 km southwest of Reuleuet in Aceh province at a depth of 48 kilometers, the US Geological Survey said. A 90-year-old man suffered a heart attack as he was fleeing with other residents of Tangse village in Pidie district, National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said. He said two other villagers were rushed to a hospital with head injuries and broken bones after about 160 houses and two mosques were badly damaged. Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency put the magnitude at 5.6 and the depth at only 10 kilometers (6 miles).

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/indonesia-earthquake-quake-kills-injures-20644268**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/indonesia-earthquake-quake-kills-injures-20644268)

**Japan**

**Dozens leave Japan mudslide island to beat new typhoon**

More than 50 people were being evacuated from a storm-battered Japanese island Wednesday, where mudslides left 45 dead or missing last week, ahead of another typhoon expected to strike this weekend. A total of 32 mostly elderly people in need of nursing care, attended by 19 others, boarded a chartered high-speed ferry for the two-hour ride from Oshima to Tokyo, some 120 km to the north, island officials said. A defence force helicopter was evacuating three other people from the volcanic island on the same day, said Mr Masahiro Mukoyama, a senior official at the Oshima town office.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/dozens-leave-japan-mudslide-island-beat-new-typhoon-20131023**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/dozens-leave-japan-mudslide-island-beat-new-typhoon-20131023)

**Malaysia**

**Two killed by flood water released from Malaysian dam**

At least two people were killed and dozens of houses were destroyed after flood water was released from a dam in Malaysia, police said Wednesday. A dam in the central Pahang state was forced to open the flood gates early Wednesday following continuous rainfall overnight, causing water in a nearby river to overflow its bank, police said. State news agency Bernama reported that a Bangladishi man and an Indonesian woman were found drown while a Indonesia teenage girl remains missing. About 80 houses located on the fringes of the river were swept away and some 100 vehicles were badly damaged. Police said 20 families in the area were evacuated and the authorities are searching for the missing.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c\_132823527.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c_132823527.htm)

**Philippines**

**Rebels kill 9 troops with buried explosives, gunfire**

Communist rebels attacked Philippine troops twice with roadside bombs and gunfire on Monday, killing nine soldiers and militiamen and wounding five others in the country’s south, officials said. About 50 New People’s Army guerrillas detonated a buried explosive and then opened fire on an army truck, killing eight soldiers and militiamen and wounding one soldier in a mountainous region in Tulunan town in North Cotabato province, regional army spokesman Lt. Nasrulah Sema said. The soldiers were on their way to deliver cash allowances to militiamen at a rural outpost. About an hour later, another truckload of soldiers that was deployed to hunt down the rebels was struck by a bomb and fired upon by guerrillas in North Cotabato’s Makilala town, killing a soldier and wounding four others, Sema said.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\_pacific/8-filipino-troops-killed-in-land-mine-attacks-by-southern-rebels/2013/10/21/b661906e-3a29-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/8-filipino-troops-killed-in-land-mine-attacks-by-southern-rebels/2013/10/21/b661906e-3a29-11e3-b0e7-716179a2c2c7_story.html)

**Earthquake victims need shelter, water, sanitation**

One week after a massive earthquake hit the central Philippines, up to 70% of those displaced are living in the open for fear of aftershocks and are in urgent need of shelter, water and sanitation, aid agencies told Thomson Reuters Foundation. The 7.2 magnitude quake on Oct. 15 killed 190 people, displaced 380,000 and affected over 3 million in the tourist destinations of Bohol island and the nearby Cebu islands. Bohol, 630 km south of the capital, Manila, bore the brunt of the quake’s force. As of Monday morning, 2,318 aftershocks have been recorded, the national disaster agency said, and aid agencies expressed concern over trauma caused by the aftershocks and over living conditions both inside and outside evacuation centres.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131022115025-e5q8p/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131022115025-e5q8p/?source=hptop)

**Magnitude-5.1 quake rocks S. Philippines**

A magnitude-5.1 earthquake struck parts of southern Philippines early Wednesday, state seismologists reported. But no damage was expected following the tectonic quake that shook parts of Davao del Sur province at around 4:53 a.m. local time, said Desiderio Cabanlit, chief of Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) Davao. Cabanlit said the quake was centered some 50 kilometers southeast of Sarangani town in Davao del Sur at a depth of 52 km.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c\_132822399.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c_132822399.htm)

**Aquino confident of ending Muslim rebellion before 2016**

President Benigno Aquino said Wednesday he was confident of ending a decades-old Muslim insurgency before he stepped down in 2016, despite slow progress at peace talks. The government had hoped to secure a final peace pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) this year but negotiations have become bogged down, raising concerns about whether all other steps can be completed before Aquino’s term ends. Asked at a foreign correspondents’ forum whether he remained confident of completing the peace process by mid-2016, Aquino replied: “yes”, and said he preferred delays in the negotiations to a hastily arranged pact with flaws.

**AFP -** [**http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/512837/aquino-confident-of-ending-muslim-rebellion-before-2016**](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/512837/aquino-confident-of-ending-muslim-rebellion-before-2016)

ESAR

**Mozambique**

**Ex-rebels, president want to avoid war**

Mozambique's president and Renamo are determined to avoid a return to war, a negotiator said Tuesday, after the former rebels declared a 1992 peace deal over. Two days of tit-for-tat violence have raised fears the country could plunge back civil war, two decades after the end of one of Africa's bloodiest conflicts in which around a million people were killed. Members of Renamo, now an opposition party, attacked a police station on Tuesday, hours after the group declared a government raid on its base had broken the peace deal that ended 16 years of fighting. But in talks with independent negotiator Lourenco do Rosario, Renamo said it "reaffirms that it does not want to return to war," the envoy said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jXrO8gswljUuuex56blMqTtHBx3g?docId=be5fe7a9-29fc-4cfb-bbbc-4678274dfdd1&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jXrO8gswljUuuex56blMqTtHBx3g?docId=be5fe7a9-29fc-4cfb-bbbc-4678274dfdd1&hl=en)

**Renamo attack on Maringue police station**

Mozambique's opposition Renamo movement has attacked a police station in the central town of Maringue a day after annulling a 1992 peace accord with the government, officials say. Police are said to have fled their posts after gunmen opened fire and there are no reports of casualties. A Renamo spokesman said party leader Afonso Dhlakama had "lost control of the situation". On Monday, the army captured Mr Dhlakama's base, forcing him to flee. The clashes have raised fears among many Mozambicans that the civil war could resume, threatening stability and the economic boom the southern Africa state is currently experiencing, reports the BBC's Jose Tembe from the capital, Maputo.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24625718**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24625718)

**South Sudan**

**South Kordofan villages targeted in SAF bomb attack**

A Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Antonov plane has attacked South Kordofan’s Umdorain county, causing civilian casualties and destroying homes and farmland, the rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) said in a statement. According to SPLM-N spokesperson Arnu Ngutulu Lodi, the villages of Enderra and Achron villages were subject to an aerial bombardment, which occurred on Sunday at about 4pm (local time). Five civilians were wounded in the attack, including an 85-year-old woman and a 75-year-old man.

**South Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48529**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48529)

**UN condemns Twic attack after 70 killed**

The acting humanitarian coordinator for the UN in South Sudan has condemned the attack on civilians in Jonglei state’s Twic East county, which killed over 70 people on Sunday. “On behalf of the humanitarian community, I strongly condemn the attack on civilians which took place in Jonglei State’s Twic East County on 20 October 2013”, Cris Nikoi, of OCHA said on Tuesday. On 20 and 21 October the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) evacuated 49 people from Twic East, thirty of the injured were flown to Bor and 19 to Juba for medical treatment according to OCHA. The government in Jonglei said over 70 were killed and 88 others were injured in the attack, which has been blamed on a rebel group which has been operating in the area. Among the casualties, as identified by the OCHA, were at least five women and children.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48525**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48525)

LAC

**Bolivia**

**Ambush leaves 4 security force members dead**

A weekend ambush and hostage-taking involving police and Bolivian coca growers has left four people dead, officials said Monday. Two members of a military and police team working to eradicate coca crops died in a firefight Saturday. Eight hostages were taken, and two were found dead on Monday. The other six hostages were rescued or escaped, and some were wounded. A total of 14 people were wounded in the fighting, said Interior Minister Carlos Romero. He said the coca growers were linked to drug traffickers, reportedly with foreign connections. The fighting happened in the Apolo region, 410 km north of the capital La Paz.

**AFP -** [**http://www.geo.tv/article-123346-Bolivia-coca-ambush-leaves-4-security-force-members-dead**](http://www.geo.tv/article-123346-Bolivia-coca-ambush-leaves-4-security-force-members-dead)

**Colombia**

**Colombian president calls for greater progress in talks with FARC**

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has called for greater progress in talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group to end five decades of internal strife, the chief government negotiator said here Tuesday. "The president is evaluating and will continue to evaluate the talks' progress. The objective of our trip during this round is to make progress, progress, progress towards the outcome," Humberto De la Calle said at the presidential palace in Bogota. The talks have been under way in Havana, Cuba, since November and Santos hopes to conclude them by the end of the year.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c\_132822568.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c_132822568.htm)

**Mexico**

**Weakening Raymond soaks southwestern Mexico, no serious damage**

More heavy rain spawned by Hurricane Raymond as it churns over the Pacific fell on southwestern Mexico on Tuesday, soaking areas hit by record flooding last month, but forecasters said the storm was weakening and appeared unlikely to reach land. The port and schools remained closed in the resort city of Acapulco, which also was battered by tropical storms that struck Mexico in mid-September. The freight hub of Lazaro Cardenas to the northwest also was shut. Coastal rains caused minor mudslides in the hills behind Acapulco, but there were no reports of significant damage.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/22/us-storm-raymond-idUSBRE99J04Q20131022**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/22/us-storm-raymond-idUSBRE99J04Q20131022)

MENA

**Egypt**

**2 people killed in attack in Egypt's Sinai**

An army soldier and a civilian were killed and five others injured in an attack in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt on Tuesday, military spokesman Ahmed Mohamed Ali said on his official web page. "The terrorists attacked two buses which were carrying army soldiers on vacation," Ali said, adding that they used three bombs and heavy gunfire, which led to the death of an army soldier and a civilian driver. Five other soldiers were injured in the incident that took place on the Arish-Rafah road. The attackers fled the scene after exchanging fire with army forces, who are now combing the area in search of them.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c\_132821527.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c_132821527.htm)

**Iraq**

**Suicide bombers, gunmen kill 28 in Iraq, say officials**

Gunmen and suicide bombers driving explosives-rigged vehicles launched a wave of coordinated attacks in Iraq's Anbar province overnight, killing 25 police and three civilians, officials and medics said today. The attacks between 10:00 pm and midnight Tuesday in the west Iraq province also wounded 26 police, they said. Militants, including those linked to Al-Qaeda, frequently target Iraqi security forces and other government employees. Four of the attacks struck targets in or near the town of Rutba, about 110 km from the border with war-racked Syria.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/suicide-bombers-gunmen-kill-28-in-iraq-say-officials-436108**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/suicide-bombers-gunmen-kill-28-in-iraq-say-officials-436108)

**Attacks in and near Iraqi capital kill 9 people**

A string of attacks in and around Baghdad, including bombings at a market and in a commercial street, killed 9 people and wounded 18 on Wednesday, Iraqi official said, the latest in a wave of violence roiling the country. A bomb went off during the morning rush hour in a busy, commercial street in Baghdad's western Amariyah neighborhood, killing four people and wounding 10, the police said. Two shoppers were killed and eight were wounded when a bomb exploded at an outdoor market in the Abu Ghraib area, just west of the Iraqi capital, officials said. Also, they said, gunmen shot dead two policemen as they were heading to work in Ramadi, 175 km west of Baghdad. The city is the provincial capital of the western Anbar province and a former al-Qaida stronghold.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attacks-kill-policemen-western-iraqi-town-20648967**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attacks-kill-policemen-western-iraqi-town-20648967)

**Lebanon**

**2 killed in north Lebanon clash over Syria: Security**

Two people were killed and 30 others wounded in a three-day gunfight in the Lebanese city of Tripoli between supporters and opponents of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a security official said Wednesday. The violence has closed schools and sent families into flight. The clashes broke out on Monday night as an interview with Assad was being aired on television. The 13-year-old victim was from Jabal Mohsen, a majority Alawite neighbourhood in the northern port city of Tripoli whose residents support Assad. The man killed was from Bab al-Tebbaneh, whose Sunni inhabitants support the anti-Assad revolt in neighbouring Syria.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/84544/World/Region/-killed-in-north-Lebanon-clash-over-Syria-Security.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/84544/World/Region/-killed-in-north-Lebanon-clash-over-Syria-Security.aspx)

**Libya**

**Clashes west of Libya's capital leave 2 dead**

Armed clashes erupted west of the Libyan capital of Tripoli on Tuesday, leaving two dead and another seriously injured, Libyan lawmaker Mustafa al-Triki told Xinhua News Agency. Al-Triki said that the national security forces' group Libya Shield confronted armed militiamen in Gilad, 80 km West of Tripoli, after the latter seized ten civilians from Zawiya. Zawiya is 30 km away from Gilad, the village where the capture took place. Speaking with Xinhua, al-Triki said "Libya Shield opened fire on the militiamen after several attempts to convince them to release the hostages," he said, adding "the situation calmed after the Libya Shield forces managed to free all the abducted civilians and withdrew."

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c\_132821483.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c_132821483.htm)

**Syria**

**Syria 'frees women' after hostage deal**

Syrian authorities have released 14 women detainees as part of a hostage exchange but dozens of others are still being held, a prominent human rights activist has said. Nine Lebanese Shia hostages held for 17 months by a rebel group in northern Syria were exchanged on Saturday for two Turkish pilots held in Lebanon since August. The release of scores of female detainees held in government jails formed part of the deal brokered by Turkey, Qatar and Lebanon. Among them was a cancer patient who had been imprisoned twice before and whose husband has been killed in Syria's 31-month-old conflict, said Nassar. "Another 128 women whose names were on the list have yet to be set free," she said. There has been no official comment in Damascus on the women detainees.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131022-syria-air-force-strikes-rebels-near-damascus-aleppo**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131022-syria-air-force-strikes-rebels-near-damascus-aleppo)

**Yemen**

**American airstrikes in Yemen kill more civilians than terrorists – HRW report**

A new report by Human Rights Watch once again confirms that Hellfire rockets lack selectivity and exterminate women and children more often than they hit Al-Qaeda associates. Last month the UN urged the US to reveal data on civilian drone casualties. The prominent human rights organization has released a detailed [102-page report](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2013/10/22/between-drone-and-al-qaeda-0" \t "_blank) on the US drone attacks and airstrikes in Yemen against militants of the Al-Qaeda wing in the country simultaneously with another human rights organization Amnesty International issuing a [report](http://rt.com/news/us-drones-war-crimes-535/" \t "_blank) on US drone strikes in Pakistan. Basically, the HRW report has maintained an already widely-known fact that civilians die too often in reported ‘surgical’ strikes which is unacceptable even by the ‘law of war’. *“The US has launched about 80 targeted killing operations in Yemen since 2009,”* claims Humans Rights Watch Senior Researcher Letta Tayler.

**RT-** [**http://rt.com/news/yemen-drone-strikes-report-538/**](http://rt.com/news/yemen-drone-strikes-report-538/)

**Yemeni burns daughter to death for contacting fiance: police**

A Yemeni father has burned his 15-year-old daughter to death for keeping in touch with her fiance, police said, sparking further outrage in Yemen, where an eight-year girl died from internal bleeding on her wedding night a month ago. Police said a 35-year-old man had been arrested after the teenager's death in a remote village in the central Taiz province. Traditional tribal customs in parts of Yemen prohibit contacts between men and women before marriage. Poverty and concern about "family honor" prompts many Yemenis to marry off their daughters young, often below the age of 18, a practice that has been criticized by international rights groups.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/23/us-yemen-daughter-idUSBRE99M08020131023**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/23/us-yemen-daughter-idUSBRE99M08020131023)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**India says Pakistani troops attacked border posts**

India's border force says Pakistani troops fired guns and mortars on at least 50 Indian border posts overnight in the disputed region of Kashmir and killed one Indian guard. Border Security Force spokesman Vinod Yadav says the attacks in southern Kashmir are a serious violation of a 2003 cease-fire agreement between India and Pakistan. The nuclear-armed neighbors have fought two wars over rival claims to the Himalayan territory. Yadav says the attacks began Tuesday night after India's home minister visited the region to review security. He says Indian border troops returned fire. One guard was killed at the Arnia post in the Jammu region.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/india-pakistani-troops-attacked-border-posts-20653627**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/india-pakistani-troops-attacked-border-posts-20653627)

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan forces kill 48 Taliban fighters in 24 hours**

Afghan police backed by the army and the NATO-led coalition forces have killed four dozen Taliban militants across the country over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Wednesday. "Afghan National Police backed by the units of national army and the Coalition forces conducted several joint clearance operations in Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kandahar, Helmand and Nimroz provinces over the past 24 hours which left 48 armed Taliban rebels dead, 38 wounded and six others arrested," the statement said. However, it did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces. Taliban militants are yet to make comment.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c\_132823795.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/23/c_132823795.htm)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**CAR 'tragedy' under spotlight at regional meet**

The Central African Republic's neighbours met Monday in Chad to discuss boosting an African peacekeeping force to protect citizens from roving armed gangs sowing terror in the country.

Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno, a key backer of the regime in Bangui which came to power in a bloody March coup, called the meeting of the 10-nation Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). It met as EU ministers warned on Monday of an "alarming" deterioration in security saying the country's entire population was now at "grave risk". EU states urged the rapid mobilisation of the UN-ordered African-led stabilisation force MISCA which is slowly deploying to the strife-torn country.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131021/cafrican-tragedy-under-spotlight-at-regional-meet-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131021/cafrican-tragedy-under-spotlight-at-regional-meet-0)

**CAR  
Seventy per cent of school children still not in classrooms – UNICEF**

Seven out of 10 primary school students in the Central African Republic have not returned to school since the conflict started in December 2012, according to a recent survey by **UNICEF** and partners.

About 65% of schools surveyed had been looted, occupied or damaged by bullets or shells. “A school is meant to be a safe space for teaching and learning, but in some areas there is nothing left,” said **UNICEF** Representative in Central African Republic Souleymane Diabaté. “Without teachers, desks, textbooks -- how can a child learn?” Four out of five people said that fear of violence is the main reason that students are reluctant to return to school. Almost half of the schools remain closed and students have lost an average of six months of schooling. **UNICEF** calls on the authorities of Central African Republic to take concrete measures to support the permanent and safe return of all teachers and students to school.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70686.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70686.html)

**CAR's civil society calls for prosecution of ex-rebel commander**

The civil society of Central African Republic is demanding an ex-rebel chief be prosecuted for a bloodshed in August. They press ahead with the charges two days after general Moussa Assimeh left the capital Bangui to settle in his home town of Birao in the northeast of the country. General Assimeh was one of the chiefs of the Seleka coalition who helped Michel Djotodia to overthrow the government of Francois Bozize on March 24, 2013. The civil society and human rights groups want him to be prosecuted in the country's courts or at an international court for killings in the pretext of a disarmament operation.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/23/c\_132824181.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/23/c_132824181.htm)

**Chaos in CAR prevents life-saving aid from reaching needy - UNICEF mention**

The UN says 1.6 million people in the Central African Republic are in urgent need of food, protection, health care and other life-saving services. Emergency directors from seven UN and two private agencies are in the midst of a three-day mission to assess the current situation and see how humanitarian aid can best be distributed in the country. Despite enormous difficulties, four UN agencies and dozens of international and national aid groups continue to provide humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of needy people in the CAR. Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says more than 394,000 people have been forced to flee their homes since the country's current crisis began last December. Meanwhile, **UNICEF** says the country's education system has been greatly harmed by the crisis. A new **UNICEF** survey finds seven out of 10 students have not returned to school since the conflict started last December. **UNICEF** is calling on CAR authorities to take concrete measures to support the permanent and safe return of all teachers and students to school.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/chaos-in-car-prevents-life-saving-aid-from-reaching-needy/1772464.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/chaos-in-car-prevents-life-saving-aid-from-reaching-needy/1772464.html)

**DR Congo**

**Congo's Kabila says to create national unity government**

Congo's President Joseph Kabila said on Wednesday he would create a government of national unity including members of the opposition and civil society to push for peace in the central African giant. "A government of national unity will be soon put in place," Kabila said in an address to present the findings of a national dialogue to resolve years of political crises and rebellion in Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131023105644-i3iby**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131023105644-i3iby)

**Mali**

**Urgent request for funding as donors desert**

People in West Africa's Sahel region are amongst the most vulnerable in the world, with crises in the region becoming more frequent and communities in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. OCHA says that a lack of funding from the international donor community is one of the reasons why aid isn't getting to the people who need it the most. Robert Piper, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, says that Mali is in desperate need of assistance to secure the most basic of services, such as education, health, electricity and water, which are particularly lacking in the north of the country. He's appealing for donors to step up their aid.

**UN Radio -** [**http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2013/10/urgent-request-for-funding-as-donors-desert-mali/**](http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2013/10/urgent-request-for-funding-as-donors-desert-mali/)

**Country launches "Back to School" campaign after conflict - UNICEF mention**

Mali's Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly on Monday presided over the launch of the "Return to School" campaign to sensitize over 500,000 pupils and 9,000 teachers to resume normal education after the political conflict. The campaign launched in the northern town of Timbuktu envisages the return of 300,000 pupils in the south and 200,000 pupils in the north in the next three months. Mali's Education Minister Jacqueline Marie Nana said the campaign is the first phase of re-educating the children. She said although the campaign targets children affected by the conflict, it does not ignore the fact that over 1.2 million children in Mali have not yet gained access to education. In the refugee camps in the neighboring countries of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania, **UNICEF** is working with the concerned governments, WFP, UNHCR and non-governmental partners to ensure Malian children get access to both formal and non-formal education.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/22/c\_132820435.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/22/c_132820435.htm)

**Nigeria**

**Islamic police arrest dozens over dress**

Islamic police in Nigeria's northern city of Kano have arrested and publicly paraded scores of alleged Islamic law transgressors, including transvestites and people wearing clothing deemed too tight or revealing. They also shaved the supposedly overly long hair of several men Tuesday. Spokesman Mohammed Yusuf Yola of the board policing implementation of Shariah said 45 men and women were detained at a birthday party Sunday because of "indecent dress that is against the practice of Islam."

Yola said recent arrests of 150 people, including 55 alleged prostitutes, is a new campaign to enforce Islamic law, which officially governs nine of Nigeria's 37 states.

**AP -** [**http://www.khou.com/news/world/228826261.html**](http://www.khou.com/news/world/228826261.html)

**Fear of violence slows polio immunization drive in Kano**

Fear and secrecy have cloaked the roll-out of a polio campaign currently underway in northern Nigeria. Vaccinators are concealing their identities, hiding vaccinations under their veils and visiting some areas only with undercover armed guards, following the February murder by Boko Haram of nine polio workers in the city of Kano. “The [polio] campaign is done under an atmosphere of fear and secrecy, with vaccinators hiding their identity and moving around furtively for fear of being attacked,” a source at the WHO office in Kano, who is involved in polio immunization campaigns, reported. The Ministry of Health temporarily suspended the immunization campaign in March 2013, as vaccinators were too frightened to continue, reported the executive secretary of Kano state’s Primary Healthcare Management Board (PHMB) in charge of polio immunizations. The campaign resumed in April. As of 16 October, Nigeria accounted for 49 of the 296 polio cases recorded globally by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, down from 2012, when Nigeria accounted for 121 cases, 28 of them in Kano.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98977/fear-of-violence-slows-polio-immunization-drive-in-kano**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98977/fear-of-violence-slows-polio-immunization-drive-in-kano)

**Military says killed 37 Boko Haram militants**

Nigeria's military reported that it killed 37 suspected Boko Haram fighters in a ground and air assault on an insurgent camp in the northeast, the epicentre of the group's four-year uprising. The military attacked a suspected Boko Haram camp in Borno state, reported a military spokesperson. The military recovered arms and ammunition and destroyed vehicles and motorcycles belonging to suspected militants, he said. "The operation which involved a coordinated ground and air assault," he added. "It was aimed at destroying the terrorists' camp... A total of 37 suspected Boko Haram militants were killed in (a) cross fire exchange." The account could not be independently verified.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-37-boko-haram-militants-killed-in-military-strikes/1774885.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-37-boko-haram-militants-killed-in-military-strikes/1774885.html)

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