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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Resistance to malaria drugs has spread in SE Asia**

International experts raised the alarm over the spread of drug-resistant malaria in several Southeast Asian countries, saying it endangers major global gains in fighting the disease that kills more than 600,000 people annually. While the disease wreaks its heaviest toll in Africa, it’s in nations along the Mekong River where the most serious threat to treating it has emerged. The availability of therapies using the drug artemisinin has helped cut global malaria deaths by a quarter in the past decade. But over the same period, resistance to the drug emerged on Thailand’s borders with Myanmar and Cambodia and has spread. It has been detected in southern Vietnam and likely exists in southern Laos, reported the Thailand-based Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit. White, a leading authority on the subject, said that while there’s no confirmed evidence of resistance in Africa, there’s plenty of risk of transmission by air travelers from affected countries, such as construction laborers, aid workers or soldiers serving on peacekeeping missions. The WHO, is also warning that what seems to be a localized threat could easily get out of control and have serious implications for global health.

**AP-** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/resistance-malaria-drugs-spread-se-asia-20859318**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/resistance-malaria-drugs-spread-se-asia-20859318)

**United Nations**

**China, Cuba, Russia, Saudi Arabia elected to UN Human Rights Council**

China, Cuba, Russia and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday won three-year seats on the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, the United Nations' top rights body, despite concerns about abuses and restrictions on freedoms in all four nations. Also winning seats on the 47-nation council were Algeria, Britain, France, Mexico, the Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Vietnam, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The annual election for one-third of the council's membership was held in the 193-nation UN General Assembly. South Sudan and Uruguay failed to win election to the council in competitive slates for their respective regional groups. The other regions had uncontested ballots. The newly elected countries will be on the council from 2014 through 2016.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/12/us-un-rights-council-idUSBRE9AB19E20131112?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/12/us-un-rights-council-idUSBRE9AB19E20131112?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

CEE/CIS

**Bulgaria**

**Clashes outside parliament**

Scuffles have broken out as riot police pushed back anti-government protesters trying to block off parliament in Sofia. Students and other demonstrators converged on the building as part of a rolling campaign to dislodge the Socialist-backed government. The students have been staging a sit-in at Sofia University for three weeks. Unrest over poverty and corruption has continued despite early elections in May. Students locked gates at the capital's university to declare a complete "occupation" of the site but reports suggest it may re-open on 13 November. They marched through the streets with other Bulgarians to the parliament, which protesters managed to blockade briefly in July. Several people were arrested as police sought to remove protesters trying to stop patrol cars by lying on the ground, Bulgaria's Novinite news agency reports.

**BBC-** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24911566**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24911566)

**Tajikistan**

**Earthquakes destroy over 100 houses**

A series of earthquakes in Tajikistan over the last 24 hours has completely destroyed over 100 homes and damaged hundreds more, a rescue services spokesperson reported. The press service head of Tajikistan’s Emergency Situations Committee, said that 104 houses had been destroyed and 256 others were damaged by three earthquakes that hit the country. The first seismic disturbance, which local seismologists said had a magnitude of 5.0, struck Tajikistan’s Rudaki district south of Dushanbe. A second earthquake with the same magnitude hit the area again, followed by a third tremor with a magnitude of 4.0, seismologists said.

**RIA/NOVOSTI-** [**http://en.ria.ru/world/20131111/184640920/Earthquakes-in-Tajikistan-Destroy-Over-100-Houses.html**](http://en.ria.ru/world/20131111/184640920/Earthquakes-in-Tajikistan-Destroy-Over-100-Houses.html)

EAPR

**China**

**China to revamp security amid threats at home and abroad**

China will set up a new "state security committee'' as it seeks to tackle growing social unrest and unify the powers of a disparate security apparatus in the face of growing challenges at home and abroad, the government said on Tuesday. Details of how the committee will work and when exactly it will begin operations were left unclear in the announcement, carried by state news agency Xinhua at the end of a key meeting of the ruling Communist Party to map out political and economic reforms. Xinhua said the committee would "improve the system of national security and the country's national security strategy'' so as to "effectively prevent and end social disputes and improve public security."

**VoA-** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-china-to-revamp-security-amid-threats-at-home-and-abroad/1788624.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-china-to-revamp-security-amid-threats-at-home-and-abroad/1788624.html)

**Indonesia**

**More than 5,000 flee erupting Indonesian volcano**

More than 5,000 people have fled their homes in western Indonesia in recent days following a series of violent volcanic eruptions, an official said on Tuesday. Mount Sinabung on the north of Sumatra island has been hurling out red-hot ash, rocks and torrents of glowing lava up to seven kilometres (four miles) into the air since the start of the month. Villagers from nearby Karo district are being evacuated as the volcano, which erupted in September for the first time since 2010, continues to spew ash and rocks. "So far, 5,265 people have been evacuated from seven villages," local government spokesman Robert Peranginangin told AFP.

**AFP-** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/More-than-5000-flee-erupting-Indonesian-volcano/articleshow/25648109.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/More-than-5000-flee-erupting-Indonesian-volcano/articleshow/25648109.cms)

**Philippines**

**Death toll mounts as UN calls for massive aid**

The official death toll from Super Typhoon Haiyan, which hit the central Philippines, stands at more than 1,700 on 12 November, while survivors grow more desperate amid shortages of drinking water, food and shelter. The death toll from last week's storm is now at 1,744, officials said. The UN on 12 November called on the international community to provide $301 million worth of storm aid. Emergency aid totaling $54 million has been offered to the Philippines, the Philippine Foreign Ministry said, adding that the assistance consists of cash, medical equipment, rescue gear and first aid materials.

**EFE-** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/131112/death-toll-mounts-philippines-un-calls-massive-aid**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/131112/death-toll-mounts-philippines-un-calls-massive-aid)

**Desperate typhoon survivors loot, dig up water pipes**

Desperation gripped Philippine islands devastated by Typhoon Haiyan as looting turned deadly on Wednesday and survivors panicked over delays in supplies of food, water and medicine, some digging up underground water pipes and smashing them open. Eight people were killed when looters raided rice stockpiles in a government warehouse in the town of Alangalang, causing part of the building to collapse, local authorities said. Looters also raided warehouses owned by food and drinks company Universal Robina Corp and drug company United Laboratories in the storm-hit town of Palo in Leyte, along with a rice mill in Jaro, said Alfred Li, head of the Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Soldiers sent in by Aquino to restore order in the city of Tacloban, which bore the brunt of the storm, fired shots into the air to scatter looters, television footage showed. Tacloban city administrator Tecson John Lim said 90 percent of the coastal city of 220,000 people had been destroyed, with only 20 percent of residents receiving aid. Houses were now being looted because warehouses were empty, he said. "The looting is not criminality. It is self-preservation," Lim told Reuters.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/philippine-president-says-typhoon-death-toll-overstated-034530763--sector.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/philippine-president-says-typhoon-death-toll-overstated-034530763--sector.html)

**Mayor of Tacloban urges residents to flee**

The mayor of this typhoon-ravaged city urged residents on Wednesday afternoon to flee to other cities and find shelter there with relatives if they could, saying that the local authorities were struggling to provide enough food and water and faced difficulties in maintaining law and order. The appeal from Mayor Alfred S. Romualdez came as the first attempt in Tacloban to conduct a mass burial ended in failure. A police convoy of trucks carrying more than 200 rotting corpses turned back after hearing gunshots as they approached the city limits. Covered with black plastic tarpaulins, the bodies were returned to a gathering place at the foot of the hill topped by City Hall, where they released a powerful odor. Mayor Romualdez said that the city desperately needed trucks and drivers to distribute relief shipments of food that are piling up at the city’s airport, as well as more trucks, heavy equipment and personnel to pull decaying corpses out of the unending mounds of debris and collapsed houses that stretch across this city.

**NYT-** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/14/world/asia/aid-groups-in-philippines-fear-more-devastation-has-yet-to-be-revealed.html?adxnnl=1&ref=world&adxnnlx=1384339323-mpR4A5zzstGtkFYEp0Q7TQ**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/14/world/asia/aid-groups-in-philippines-fear-more-devastation-has-yet-to-be-revealed.html?adxnnl=1&ref=world&adxnnlx=1384339323-mpR4A5zzstGtkFYEp0Q7TQ)

ESAR

**Mozambique**

**Armed gang attacks wealthy Mozambican businessman**

A gang carrying guns and machetes has attacked and seriously wounded a wealthy businessman in northern Mozambique, police said on 12 November, extending a wave of violence gripping parts of the country. Some of the attackers wore dark green uniforms associated with members of former rebel group Renamo during the assault on a property in the province of Nampula, police said. "Ten men came to the smallholding, three of them dressed in Renamo uniforms carrying AK47s and the rest carrying machetes," a provincial police spokesperson reported. "They said they wanted money." When the man, who runs a driving school, failed to give them money the group went on a rampage, attacking him and molesting his workers and security guards, he said. "They attacked the owner with machetes. He is in a serious condition in Nampula Hospital," he said. They also torched three houses and several vehicles, he said. The attack occurred in Rampale district, about 35 kilometres outside Nampula.

**AFP-** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5itq2n5SBN6iD6C8xIREAXdMTD7mQ?docId=bca77195-1c6e-4433-986d-5f8f5f7e2528&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5itq2n5SBN6iD6C8xIREAXdMTD7mQ?docId=bca77195-1c6e-4433-986d-5f8f5f7e2528&hl=en)

**Somalia**

**Tropical cyclone death toll tops 300, fallen bridge hampers rescue efforts**

The death toll from a heavy tropical cyclone storm which hit Somalia’s northeastern region of Puntland over the weekend could reach 300 people according to reliable sources as a key bridge connecting Garowe to Bossaso collapsed following torrential rains, Garowe Online reports. Officials said on 12 November that the extent of the devastation by the storm surge became apparent and preliminary reports confirm that nearly 300 people died in the coastal areas along cape Guardafu, Beyla and Nugal valley vicinities close to the Eyl coastal town, 1300 km North-east of Mogadishu. Concerned residents of Eyl reported that the cyclone whipped up waves of two to three metres, levelling seaside homes and washing away fishing boats while dozens of people were still missing. The emerging reports of the death seem a sharp increase from the initial estimates of at least 100 deaths. Many people were killed in the remote towns on the Indian Ocean coast, either crushed in their homes or swept away by the flooding. The collapse of Midigar Bridge, located at Sunijif village 60 km east of Garowe has hampered the rescue and relief efforts. Meanwhile, the storm continues to wreak extraordinary damage in the coastal areas. Eyl, Beyla, Dangorayo, Hafun, Alula, Rako Raho, and Jariban are among the most affected districts along the eastern and northern coasts. Many fishermen are missing and feared dead. The storm has destroyed entire villages, homes, buildings, and boats". On 12 November, the government's committee held the second meeting with UN and International aid agencies, discussing the relief efforts. The cyclone is said to have whipped up waves of four to five metres and the cyclone the with life-threatening flooding is expected to continue until 13 November.

**Garowe-** [**http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\_27/Somalia\_Tropical\_Cyclone\_death\_toll\_tops\_300\_Fallen\_Bridge\_hampers\_rescue\_efforts.shtml**](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Tropical_Cyclone_death_toll_tops_300_Fallen_Bridge_hampers_rescue_efforts.shtml)

**UNSC approves boost to peacekeepers**

The UN Security Council authorized an increase of more than 4,000 peacekeepers in Somalia on Tuesday so the UN-backed African force can boost its fight against al Shabaab militants who have shifted tactics and expanded their reach. The 15-member UNSC unanimously adopted a resolution on Tuesday boosting the number of African peacekeepers in Somalia to 22,126 for up to two years and expanding UN logistical support to the force. "It is a significant increase and it should allow AMISOM to go on to the front foot to regain momentum in tackling al Shabaab and we will certainly be encouraging them to do that," British UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant told reporters. The resolution also called on countries to consider supplying the peacekeeping force with up to 12 much-needed military helicopters.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112184657-nb0lu**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112184657-nb0lu)

LAC

**Colombia**

**Colombia boosts security after FARC plot to kill Uribe**

Colombia's government said Tuesday it was tightening security after details emerged of a FARC rebel plot to murder ex-president Alvaro Uribe. The accusation comes as the present Colombian government is engaged in delicate peace talks with the rebels, and it was not immediately clear what effect it would have on negotiations. Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon said he met with Uribe "to inform him of the detection of a plan by the FARC's Teofilo Forero Mobile Column to make an attempt on his life." Pinzon said President Juan Manuel Santos ordered authorities "to guarantee the security and integrity of the former head of state and protect him, as well as to get those responsible for these threats."

**AFP-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/colombia-accuses-farc-plot-kill-ex-president-uribe-174559007.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/colombia-accuses-farc-plot-kill-ex-president-uribe-174559007.html)

**Chile**

**Chileans expected to elect leftist Bachelet**

Chile is set to take a moderate turn to the left in elections on Sunday with the popular and charismatic ex-president Michelle Bachelet almost certain to win a triumphant return to power. Bachelet has promised to redress inequality by hiking taxes and putting cash into education and health, as well as rewriting the country's dictatorship-era constitution. Chile's free-market economy and rapid copper-fuelled growth have made it a Latin American success story in the last two decades. As it looks to join the ranks of developed nations, however, there are growing calls for its wealth and opportunities to be more equitably shared. Still, most voters want tweaks rather than wholesale change, and Bachelet's center-left proposals, as well as the evidence from her first term, suggest she will not adopt radical policies.

**Reuters-** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/13/uk-chile-election-preview-idUKBRE9AC0D520131113**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/13/uk-chile-election-preview-idUKBRE9AC0D520131113)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Palestinian stabs Israeli soldier on bus**

A 16-year-old Palestinian stabbed and critically wounded an Israeli soldier on a bus in northern Israel on Wednesday in an attack apparently motivated by Israel's jailing of his relatives, police said. The incident, in the town of Afula, followed an increase in Israeli-Palestinian violence in the nearby occupied West Bank, where 10 Palestinians have been shot dead by troops and three Israelis have been killed since peace talks resumed in July. Israel's northern police commander, Ronny Attia, said the attacker was from the West Bank town of Jenin, and that he was in custody.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/13/us-palestinians-israel-violence-idUSBRE9AC09820131113?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm\_source=dlvr.it&utm\_medium=twitter&dlvrit=992637**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/13/us-palestinians-israel-violence-idUSBRE9AC09820131113?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&dlvrit=992637)

**Lebanon**

**11 members of Hizbullah's brigades in Sidon arrested**

Over a dozen members of Hezbollah’s Resistance Brigades have been arrested in the coastal city of Sidon for breaking into a local shop over a personal dispute. The Internal Security Forces arrested the 11 men over a period of two days over a personal dispute, a security source told The Daily Star. Three wanted suspects remain at large. Members of the Azzam family clashed Sunday night with members of the Sous family of Hezbollah's Resistance Brigades, prompting the latter to break into Mohammad Azzam’s shop and destroy the contents of the small store. Hezbollah formed The Resistance Brigades in 2009 which is comprised of mainly Sunni supporters from Sidon but the group has become notoriously troublemaking in the Sunni-dominated city.

**DailyStar-** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2013/Nov-12/237642-14-members-of-hezbollahs-brigades-in-sidon-arrested.ashx ixzz2kW107hn8**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2013/Nov-12/237642-14-members-of-hezbollahs-brigades-in-sidon-arrested.ashx%20ixzz2kW107hn8)

**Saudi Arabia**

**MERS virus match found in Saudi Arabian camel**

The Saudi Health Ministry says it has discovered a deadly virus in a camel in Jiddah province, on the western coast of Saudi Arabia. The ministry's statement released Monday is considered an important development in the search for the origin the deadly illness. There have been more than 60 deaths from the virus known as Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, with all but a handful of the fatalities in Saudi Arabia. The ministry said a sample from the camel was tested near the home of a patient infected with the virus.

**AP-** [**http://finance.yahoo.com/news/mers-virus-match-found-saudi-arabian-camel-192829186.html**](http://finance.yahoo.com/news/mers-virus-match-found-saudi-arabian-camel-192829186.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Israel PM cancels plan to build 20,000 settler homes in W.Bank**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu late Tuesday cancelled plans to build 20,000 new settler homes in the West Bank, hours after their announcement sparked US and Palestinian criticism. Netanyahu ordered Israeli Housing Minister Uri Ariel "to reconsider all of the steps for evaluating planning potential (for the settler homes) that he distributed without any advance coordination," a statement from Netanyahu's office said. Netanyahu told Ariel the plan was "meaningless" legally -- "and an action that creates an unnecessary confrontation with the international community at a time when we are making an effort to persuade elements in the international community to reach a better deal with Iran," according to the statement. Ariel was said to "accede" to Netanyahu's "request".

**AFP-** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g8eGSZ2hOK-SM32rMBf1Yj3vZOIA?docId=aaede68f-3565-49f6-99fb-aea2e811ffd8**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g8eGSZ2hOK-SM32rMBf1Yj3vZOIA?docId=aaede68f-3565-49f6-99fb-aea2e811ffd8)

**Sudan**

**'Many dead bodies' as rebels renew attacks**

Sudanese rebels on Tuesday claimed their first major attack of the new fighting season, even as the country's defence minister vowed to crush them in coming months. There were "many, many casualties, many dead bodies" in the afternoon ambush which destroyed three tanks near Dilling town in South Kordofan state, said Arnu Ngutulu Lodi, spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N). "As I'm speaking to you, our forces are controlling the road." Fighting typically intensifies in the region when roads again become passable after the rainy season. Sudan's army spokesman could not be reached for comment. Lodi said the government convoy had travelled from Khartoum and through El Obeid, the North Kordofan capital, before it was hit on the road to the South Kordofan capital Kadugli. "We were monitoring them," he said, adding that a rescue convoy was also attacked.

**AFP-** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131112/many-dead-bodies-sudan-rebels-renew-attacks**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131112/many-dead-bodies-sudan-rebels-renew-attacks)

**Syria**

**Boosted by foreign Shi'ite militia, Assad's forces advance on Aleppo**

Syrian government forces backed by foreign Shi'ite Muslim militia advanced on rebels in the northern city of Aleppo on Tuesday, bent on recapturing districts from opposition brigades weakened by infighting, activists said. They said that rebels saw the threat of President Bashar al-Assad wresting back Aleppo, Syria's former commercial hub and once most populous city, as so grave that Islamist brigades, including an al Qaeda affiliate, had declared an emergency and summoned all fighters to head to the fronts. Opposition sources said Iraqi Shi'ite and Hezbollah fighters based near Damascus had moved north to support the offensive on Aleppo. Hezbollah and Iran do not comment on the scale of their military involvement in Syria.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/boosted-foreign-shiite-militia-assads-forces-advance-aleppo-175738122.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/boosted-foreign-shiite-militia-assads-forces-advance-aleppo-175738122.html)

**Tunisia**

**Gunman killed, police wounded in clashes**

A suspected Islamist militant was killed in clashes in southern Tunisia on Tuesday that also left two policemen wounded during a “huge” security sweep, the interior ministry said. “Since yesterday (Monday), specialist army units have been carrying out a huge security operation in the province of Kebili,” the ministry said. “At dawn today, during a successful raid and in an exchange of fire with a terrorist group, a terrorist was killed and eight others arrested.” The interior ministry said other gunmen had fled, and that two policemen were wounded by shots to their legs. During the operation, the security forces seized grenades, a truck that was being fitted with a bomb, five cars, large sums of money, IT equipment and 30 mobile phones. Since January, two opposition MPs have been killed by suspected Islamist gunmen, while some 30 policemen and soldiers have died in operations targeting jihadist groups believed to have ties to Al-Qaeda.

**AFP-** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/12/Gunman-killed-police-wounded-in-Tunisia-clashes-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/12/Gunman-killed-police-wounded-in-Tunisia-clashes-.html)

**Yemen**

**Al Qaeda vows revenge for Shi'ite rebel attack on Salafis**

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has pledged revenge against Shi'ite Houthi rebels in northern Yemen for their assault on a Salafi school in Dammaj, Site Monitoring Service reported late on Tuesday, citing a statement from the group. Fighting between Houthis and Salafis in the traditional Dammaj school, in the heart of Shi'ite territory, caused more than 100 deaths over the past two weeks and threatens to cause more sectarian tensions in Yemen. The impoverished Arabian Peninsula state faces a host of political troubles, including the Houthi rebellion, an al Qaeda uprising, splits in the military and a southern separatist movement. AQAP's warning it would seek revenge was contained in the transcript of a video recording by Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari, a religious official in the militant group, and posted by Yemeni journalist Abdul Razza al-Jamal on his Facebook page, Site reported.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/al-qaeda-yemen-vows-revenge-shiite-rebel-attack-050813451.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/al-qaeda-yemen-vows-revenge-shiite-rebel-attack-050813451.html)

ROSA

**Bangladesh**

**Dozens hurt in Bangladesh Garment factory protest**

Riot police fired tear gas to battle thousands of stone-throwing garment workers who rampaged through two industrial towns in Bangladesh during a protest over wages Tuesday that closed at least 200 factories and left dozens of people injured, police said. The protesters built roadblocks with abandoned vehicles and wooden logs in violence that highlighted the poor working conditions in an industry that earns Bangladesh $20 billion in exports yearly but whose workers are the lowest paid in the world. Thousands of angry workers hurled stones at security forces and attacked factories in the towns of Savar and Ashulia outside the capital, Dhaka, Industrial Police Director Mustafizur Rahman said. At least 200 factories closed in the second day of the protest, and 80 people were injured over two days. Authorities deployed hundreds of paramilitary border guards to help police fighting the protesters.

**AP-** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dozens-hurt-bangladesh-garment-factory-protest-20859088**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dozens-hurt-bangladesh-garment-factory-protest-20859088)

**Maldives**

**Protests over delay of election**

Political turmoil deepened in the Maldives as the police clashed with protesters after a third attempt to hold a presidential election was thrown off course by a court order. The sitting president, reported that he would not leave office, when his term was to end under the country’s Constitution. He said that since no one had been elected to succeed him, he would stay on until 16 November, the Supreme Court’s proposed date for a runoff between the two leading candidates. Hundreds of opposition supporters had gathered on the street before his announcement, calling on him to step down, and members of the security forces in riot gear used pepper spray and batons to disperse the crowd, witnesses said.

**NY Times-** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/12/world/asia/maldives-political-turmoil.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/12/world/asia/maldives-political-turmoil.html?_r=0)

**Nepal**

**Violence upsurges as election draws near**

A protest against next week's election in Nepal turned violent as demonstrators torched vehicles and hurled explosives, police said. A 33-party alliance, headed by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M), is boycotting the 19 November vote, the country's second national election since a 10-year civil war ended in 2006. The CPN-M, which says the election will be unconstitutional, had called for a nine-day halt to motorised transport beginning on 12 November. Protesters hurled a homemade bomb at a car in Kathmandu, a police spokesman said. Earlier in the day they threw bottles at a passenger van in Kathmandu, injuring a child inside, he said. "The protesters resorted to violence after thousands of drivers across the country defied the strike," the police spokesman said. Police have arrested more than 100 demonstrators and say they plan a string of pre-emptive arrests in the coming days. Protesters also set a motorcycle on fire and damaged a car in Syangja district in western Nepal. The group has previously disrupted the distribution of election material and set several candidates' vehicles on fire.

**AFP-** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j5w74UUKIsILs-8JVM4dvKOQoeIQ?docId=fdc77778-df6e-48a2-a858-f0b258ac327a&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j5w74UUKIsILs-8JVM4dvKOQoeIQ?docId=fdc77778-df6e-48a2-a858-f0b258ac327a&hl=en)

WCAR

**Cameroon**

**Hospitals overflow as malaria spikes in the north**

The death toll from malaria in north Cameroon has risen to 2,500. The minister of health says treated mosquito bed nets that are supposed to be distributed free are instead sold in hospitals or exported to neighboring countries. Meanwhile, hospitals say they no longer have space for patients as the epidemic keeps growing. Cameroon's Minister of Health said the number of cases have spiraled. He said 657,754 patients have been treated in local hospitals with more than 180,000 diagnosed with malaria. He said 75% of those had simple malaria while the rest presented with serious or deadly complications. The Health Ministry confirmed more than 2,600 people have died, many of them pregnant women and children. But local newspapers reported a much higher death toll

**VoA-** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201311120247.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201311120247.html)

**CAR**

**Rival groups fight to take control of country**

Just months after seizing power in the Central African Republic, Seleka rebels are now facing a rebellion of their own. Another armed group called Anti-balika is carrying out attacks against the Seleka, forcing nearly 200,000 from their homes. Some people say the rebels are being funded by the former president, who was forced out of office by a coup in March.

**Al Jazeera-** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2013/11/rival-groups-fight-take-control-car-201311995721549208.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2013/11/rival-groups-fight-take-control-car-201311995721549208.html)

**DR Congo**

**Uganda warns that M23 rebels could regroup**

A Congolese rebel group whose fighters retreated into Uganda after being hammered by UN-backed Congolese government forces "can still regroup," a Ugandan government spokesman said Tuesday.

The warning came after the signing in Uganda of a peace agreement, scheduled for Monday evening, was postponed when Congolese officials asked for more time to review it. The development shows that stability for mineral-rich eastern Congo, where the rebellion ignited 1 ½ years ago and where other guerrilla groups also operate, remains elusive. Ugandan officials with knowledge of the negotiations reported a breakdown of trust between Ugandan mediators and Congolese officials. Some members of Uganda's military have supported the Congolese M23 rebels and the Rwandan government has provided even greater backing, according to a United Nations group of experts. In negotiations convened after the rebels appeared to be losing the fight, the Congolese delegation said they could no longer hold face-to-face meetings with M23's civilian leaders, said the Ugandan government spokesman, Ofwono Opondo.

**NPR-** [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=244686932**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=244686932)

**Congo blames mediator Uganda for collapse of rebel talks**

The Congolese government delegation has quit Ugandan-hosted talks with M23 rebels, saying Kampala's support for insurgents was to blame for the failure to sign a document due to officially end Congo's latest rebellion. Okello Oryem, Uganda's junior foreign affairs minister, did not immediately comment on the accusations, but said he expected it would take a few more days before any deal could be signed to end the most serious Congolese uprising in a decade. Congo's accusations against Uganda shows the deep mistrust in the region. Congolese and rebel negotiators failed to agree on the wording of the document meant to cap the army's swift military gains that led to M23 last week abandoning its uprising in Congo. "What are we supposed to sign? No country in history has signed an agreement with a movement that has declared its own dissolution," said Lambert Mende, a spokesman for DRC's government. Mende said Kinshasa wants the rebels to pledge not to take up arms again but Uganda was blocking this.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/12/us-congo-democratic-rebels-idUSBRE9AB0NE20131112**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/12/us-congo-democratic-rebels-idUSBRE9AB0NE20131112)

**Mauritania**

**Authorities warn of locust plague**

Mauritania reported on 12 November that it had sent exterminators to the north to fight a plague of locusts swarming over the area which could devastate the country, local media said. "The situation is characterised by the presence of large swarms of winged locusts and larvae," said the head of the centre for controlling the desert locust, according to the AMI news agency. He told a meeting of international partners involved in locust control that treatment and observation teams had already cleared more than 50 square kilometres of easily accessible terrain. He said the winter rain expected from 15 November could make the task more difficult and warned that many high-risk parts of the north were inaccessible, AMI reported. After becoming airborne, swarms of tens of millions of locusts can fly up to 150 kilometres a day with the wind behind them, stripping whole fields of their crops.

**AFP-** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gmTMDlxwtt1aMkZ9Mu5ywr0NpZ2w?docId=acc84b84-2cef-48a4-b2c5-b9b12ee4953b&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gmTMDlxwtt1aMkZ9Mu5ywr0NpZ2w?docId=acc84b84-2cef-48a4-b2c5-b9b12ee4953b&hl=en)