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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**We must do better to achieve global partnership promise - UNSG**

The world must renew its commitment to increasing [aid](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/aid) and reaching a trade deal to make progress on the MDGs, according to a [UN report](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/). The report, published in the run-up to next week's special session at the UN on the MDGs and what follows their 2015 deadline, focuses on the global partnership for development (MDG8), the vaguest of the eight goals. MDG8 covers aid, trade technology and access to affordable essential medicines. "The picture is mixed," said the UNSG, Ban Ki-moon. "We can do better. The best way to prepare for the post-2015 era is to demonstrate that when the international community commits to a global partnership for development, it means it, and directs its resources to where they are most needed."

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/20/ban-ki-moon-global-partnership-goal**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/20/ban-ki-moon-global-partnership-goal)

**Rights activists urge Obama to prevent Sudan leader's UN visit**

Hollywood actors George Clooney, Don Cheadle and Mia Farrow and other human rights activists on Thursday urged US President Obama to do everything in his power to prevent Sudan's indicted president from attending the UN General Assembly. World leaders gather in New York next week for the opening of the 193-nation assembly's annual general debate. Khartoum has said Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, wanted by the ICC for suspected genocide and other war crimes in Sudan's western Darfur region, wants to attend. Washington says it has received Bashir's visa application and described the request as "deplorable." However, the US is not a member of the Hague-based ICC, so the court would not be legally bound to cooperate. The US also has a special agreement that allows leaders of UN member states to attend the General Assembly.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130919230036-vj9lx/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130919230036-vj9lx/?source=hpbreaking)

**US and allies target Hezbollah financing, ties in Africa**

The US and its allies are clamping down on suspected Hezbollah activity in West Africa, which Washington says is a major source of cash for the Lebanese group as its patron Iran feels the pinch of sanctions. The push coincides with Hezbollah's deepening role in Syria, where it has dispatched thousands of fighters to back President al-Assad. It also comes in the wake of attacks outside Lebanon linked to Hezbollah that Western experts say are part of global campaign that could soon include Africa. Critics, however, argue that Washington and its allies may be exaggerating the threat and failing to distinguish between different forms of support for various elements.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920061019-95tli/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920061019-95tli/?source=hpbreaking)

CEE/CIS

**Russia**

**Opposition leader appeal trial on 9 October**

A Russian court has announced a date for the appeals trial of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was convicted of embezzlement earlier this year. Navalny, who recently ran a surprisingly strong campaign for the position of Moscow mayor, announced on Twitter Friday that the trial would start on 9 October. The statement was confirmed by his press secretary. A Russian courthouse in the town of Kirov set Navalny free in July, the day after he was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to five years in prison. Navalny has appealed both the conviction and the sentence. Many have interpreted the release as an effort to ensure that the Moscow mayoral elections appeared fair and competitive.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russian-opposition-leader-appeal-trial-oct-20314785**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russian-opposition-leader-appeal-trial-oct-20314785)

**Ukraine**

**EU will not budge on release of jailed Ukraine PM**

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite said Friday that the EU will not sign a key cooperation deal with Ukraine until former premier Yulia Tymoshenko is released from jail, but the Ukrainian leader declined to commit to a solution. Grybauskaite, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said Friday that Ukraine will have to implement key reforms in order to sign a cooperation deal with the EU in November, including resolving the issue of Tymoshenko, whose jailing the West condemns as politically motivated.

**AP -** [**http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/Application**](http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/Application)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Opposition to boycott parliament opening**

Cambodia's opposition says it will go ahead with a plan to boycott parliament's opening session Monday unless a last-minute compromise is reached to resolve the country's post-election deadlock. Opposition leader Sam Rainsy said Friday that his party is sticking to its demand for an independent probe of alleged cheating it says helped the longtime ruling party win elections on 28 July. The government has rejected the demand, and PM Hun Sen says he will take office, continuing his 28 years in power. Official results gave Hun Sen's party 68 seats, compared to 55 for the opposition. The opposition says it would have won the majority of seats had the election been fair.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/monks-urge-cambodias-king-postpone-parliament-20304385**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/monks-urge-cambodias-king-postpone-parliament-20304385)

**Prince on hunger strike over disputed polls**

A Cambodian prince – the cousin of King Norodom Sihamoni – went on hunger strike on Friday in protest against Prime Minister Hun Sen’s disputed election victory, demanding “justice for voters”. Prince Sisowath Thomico, a senior member of the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP), said: “I am on hunger strike until there is a solution to render justice to the people, who are the voters.”

**AFP -** [**http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1313939/cambodia-prince-hunger-strike-over-disputed-polls**](http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1313939/cambodia-prince-hunger-strike-over-disputed-polls)

**Indonesia**

**More than 15,000 people flee volcano**

More than 15,000 residents have fled a volcano that rumbled to life less than a week ago in Indonesia and local airlines have been warned to avoid flying near the mountain as thick ash continues to spew from its crater, an official reported. The aviation warning was issued for small planes serving short-haul flights in the region as small eruptions continue at Mount Sinabung, reported the general manager for air navigation at Kuala Namu airport in Medan. Data from the local emergency task force showed the number of people evacuated has doubled to more than 15,000 after many residents outside the 3-kilometer danger area abandoned their houses.

**AP -**

[**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\_pacific/indonesia-volcano-forces-more-than-15000-to-flee-airlines-warned-to-avoid-spewing-ash/2013/09/19/22416b08-20ec-11e3-ad1a-1a919f2ed890\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/indonesia-volcano-forces-more-than-15000-to-flee-airlines-warned-to-avoid-spewing-ash/2013/09/19/22416b08-20ec-11e3-ad1a-1a919f2ed890_story.html)

**Philippines**

**Authorities evacuate coastal villages as super typhoon approaches en route for China**

The Philippines evacuated northern coastal villages, suspended ferry services and called in fishing boats on Friday as an approaching category-five storm, already labelled a super typhoon, gained strength on a path set for southern China. With centre winds of 205 kph and gusts of up to 240 kph, Typhoon Usagi, the strongest storm to hit the Western Pacific this year, was moving northwest at 19 kph between the Philippines and Taiwan and headed for Hong Kong and south China. China's Xinhua news agency said preparations were being made for an "emergency response" in southern coastal areas.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920052748-rj3ds/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920052748-rj3ds/?source=hpbreaking)

ESAR

**Angola**

**Police detain 7 at youth protest against president**

Angolan police said on 19 September they detained seven people at a protest in Luanda by a youth movement calling for the Angolan President to quit after 34 years in power, but said they would not be charged. A police spokesperson said the detentions followed "minor disturbances" and the youths' identities would be registered but they would be released, possibly on 19 September. Members and supporters of the youth movement said on social media the police had used excessive force. The Angolan Revolutionary Movement (ARM) has staged several protests since March 2011, accusing the Angolan President of mismanaging Angola's oil revenues and suppressing human rights. Though small in numbers, it has survived a police clampdown on most rallies.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/19/angola-protest-idUSL5N0HF3U320130919**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/19/angola-protest-idUSL5N0HF3U320130919)

**South Sudan**

**President Kiir accuses army of corruption**

The South Sudanese president, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has accused the country’s forces of corruption, saying it had been squandering resources through dubious activities including ghost names on payroll system. Kiir, also the commander-in-chief of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), made the remarks in the Western Bahr el Ghazal’s capital, Wau, when he visited the area on Wednesday to witness the graduation of over 200 ex-combatants trained in various non-combat skills.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48115**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48115)

MENA

**Across MENA**

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

WHO has been informed of an additional 18 new laboratory-confirmed cases including three deaths with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in Saudi Arabia. The patients are reported from Hafar Al-Batin, Medina and Riyadh. Their ages ranging from three to 75 years old. These cases were announced by the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia during September 2013. Additionally, in Qatar, a previously laboratory-confirmed patient with MERS-CoV died on 6 September. Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 132 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including 58 deaths.

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\_09\_19/en/index.html**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_09_19/en/index.html)

**Egypt**

**Forces hunt down militants in Islamist bastion**

Security forces on Friday hunted down militants in a village near Cairo amid a lull in clashes with gunmen, as Egyptian state media praised the "liberation" of Islamist bastion Kerdassah. A police general was shot dead when security forces stormed the village near the Giza pyramids on Thursday in the latest crackdown on Islamist supporters of ousted president Mohamed Mursi. The funeral of Giza deputy security chief Nabil Farrag was due to take place after Friday prayers - at the same time as fresh protests called by Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood group. State television said the fighting in Kerdassah had now eased and that troops were carrying out house-to-house searches for Islamists militants on the run.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/egyptian-security-forces-hunt-down-militants-islamist-bastion-20130920**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/egyptian-security-forces-hunt-down-militants-islamist-bastion-20130920)

**Iran**

**Rouhani urges world leaders to engage in dialogue**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani urged world leaders on Thursday to "seize the opportunity" presented by his election to engage Iran in constructive dialogue and said his country was ready to facilitate talks between the Syrian government and the opposition. In an opinion piece published in the Washington Post on Thursday in advance of the UN General Assembly annual meeting next week, the centrist cleric said nations needed to seek "win-win outcomes" instead of using "brute force" to combat terrorism, extremism, cybercrime and other challenges.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920020614-26m4w/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920020614-26m4w/?source=hpbreaking)

**Iraq**

**'Unprecedented increase' in reporting suspected terrorists**

Iraq's Interior Ministry on Thursday reported an unprecedented increase in the number of phone calls civilians make to tell police about suspected criminals and terrorist operations. The number of phone calls made to hotlines dedicated to receiving terrorism-related notifications has increased by 40% in comparison to the figure from August, Deputy Interior Minister Adnan al-Assadi told Al-Shorfa. "We have received about 180 phone calls from citizens since early September," he said. "This helped us arrest 28 suspects wanted in connection with terrorism charges, including prominent al-Qaeda leaders, and thwart 13 terrorist attacks involving IEDs, sticky bombs and car bombs before they could be carried out in different areas of the country."

**Al-Shorfa -** [**http://al-shorfa.com/en\_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2013/09/19/newsbrief-01**](http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2013/09/19/newsbrief-01)

**Explosion hits Sunni mosque, killing 11**

An Iraqi official says an explosion has struck inside a Sunni mosque north of Baghdad, killing at least 11 people in the latest outburst of violence to hit the country. The deputy head of the municipal council in the city of Samarra says the blast went off around midday, during Friday prayers. The official, Mizhar Fleih, says at least eight people were wounded in the attack. Samarra is a largely Sunni Muslim city that is home to a revered Shiite shrine. It is 95km north of the Iraqi capital. Iraq is weathering its worst bout of violence in half a decade. The killing has risen significantly since April, with more than 4,000 killed since the start of that month.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-kurd-forces-vote-regional-assembly-20304074**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-kurd-forces-vote-regional-assembly-20304074)

**Sudan**

**Darfur protesters, police clash after murder of businessman**

Thousands of angry demonstrators in Nyala clashed with police on 19 September as they protested the murder of a businessman a day earlier, witnesses said. Police fired live ammunition and tear gas when the protesters set ablaze government buildings and attacked the governor's car, a witness reported, saying that at least four people were wounded. Other witnesses said some 500 people took to the streets in Nyala to demonstrate against the killing of a businessman and deteriorating security in Sudan's second-largest city. They set several government buildings on fire and burned tires, prompting police to fire teargas. They condemned the murder, but details about the killing were unavailable.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gkcuIyeuyQuHhKrCZS05XbHVf7HA?docId=CNG.8bc74763a66895c7a0b767071119050b.881&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gkcuIyeuyQuHhKrCZS05XbHVf7HA?docId=CNG.8bc74763a66895c7a0b767071119050b.881&hl=en)

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/19/uk-sudan-darfur-idUKBRE98I0KI20130919**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/19/uk-sudan-darfur-idUKBRE98I0KI20130919)

**Syria**

**Free Syrian Army agrees truce with Al Qaeda**

The Northern Storm brigade, which is loyal to the FSA and was based in Azaz, and Al-Qaeda front group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), which seized the town on Wednesday, both pledged to observe a ceasefire, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The deal was brokered by Liwa al-Tawhid, a powerful rebel brigade loyal to the FSA, which sent fighters to the town on Thursday who have deployed between the two sides, the Observatory said. The rival groups also undertook to free detainees captured in Wednesday's fighting and to immediately return any goods looted from the other side. They agreed that any future problems that might emerge be dealt with by an arbitration committee, the Observatory added. Azaz was one of the first towns to be overrun, in July 2012, by FSA rebels, who set up their own administration. Tensions have spiralled between some mainstream rebel groups and ISIS in recent months, especially in northern Syria, where the opposition controls vast swathes of territory.

**AFP -** [**http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/09/20/free-syrian-army-agrees-truce-jihadists**](http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/09/20/free-syrian-army-agrees-truce-jihadists)

**Government says war has reached stalemate**

The Syrian conflict has reached a stalemate and President al-Assad's government will call for a ceasefire at a long-delayed conference in Geneva on the state's future, the country's deputy PM has said in an interview with the Guardian. Qadri Jamil said that neither side was strong enough to win the conflict, which has lasted two years and caused the death of more than 100,000 people. Jamil, who is in charge of country's finances, also said that the Syrian economy had suffered catastrophic losses. Meanwhile, he said, the Syrian economy had lost about $100bn (£62bn), equivalent to two years of normal production, during the war.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/19/syrian-government-civil-war-stalemate**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/19/syrian-government-civil-war-stalemate)

**Putin sees hope in Syria deal; Kerry says it's vital that UN acts**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday he could not be 100 percent certain a US-Russian plan for the destruction of Syrian chemical arms would be carried out successfully, but he saw reason to hope it would. US Secretary of State John Kerry said it was essential the deal reached last Saturday be enforced and that the UN Security Council be willing to act on it next week, when the UN General Assembly holds its annual meeting in New York. French President Francois Hollande suggested on Thursday for the first time that Paris could arm Syrian rebels in a 'controlled framework," since they were now caught, he said, between the Syrian government on one side and radical Islamists on the other.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920000541-2zlhp/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920000541-2zlhp/?source=hpbreaking)

**France fears backlash from militants fighting in Syria**

France's interior minister revealed that hundreds of homegrown Islamist militants were signing up to fight in Syria and warned they could pose a security threat when they come back. More than 300 French nationals or residents are either currently fighting in Syria's civil war, planning to go and fight or have recently returned from there, the minister reported. Most of them were young men, often with a delinquent past, who had become radicalised, he said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.expatica.com/fr/news/french-news/france-fears-backlash-from-militants-fighting-in-syria\_274317.html**](http://www.expatica.com/fr/news/french-news/france-fears-backlash-from-militants-fighting-in-syria_274317.html)

**Russia urges Syria to convince international community for list of chemical weapons**

Russian PM Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday "Syria and other parties should do everything to convince international community for the exact amount of stockpile of Syrian chemical weapons," in a meeting with the delegation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA). Medvedev on Thursday in Moscow received OANA President and Anadolu Agency (AA) Director-General Kemal Ozturk and the directors of some other news agencies. "Without the UN resolution, any military interventions cannot be acceptable," said Medvedev.

**Anadolu Agency -** [**http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/156446/russia-urges-syria-to-convince-international-community-for-list-of-chemical-weapons.html**](http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/156446/russia-urges-syria-to-convince-international-community-for-list-of-chemical-weapons.html)

**Yemen**

**Suspected al Qaeda attacks on army kill around 30**

Suspected al Qaeda militants killed about 30 people in attacks on two military targets in south Yemen on Friday, security officials said. Around 20 died when two car bombs exploded at a military camp in al-Nashama and about 10 were killed by gunmen in the town of Mayfaa. Officials believe members of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) were behind both attacks, the security sources said. AQAP is seen by Western countries as one of the most dangerous branches of al Qaeda because it has attempted to carry out bombings on international airlines.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920080222-lnnj9/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920080222-lnnj9/?source=hpbreaking)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Kashmir's civilians caught in the crossfire**

Tarkundi, located about 115km east of Islamabad, is right on the 740km-long Line of Control (LoC), the de-facto border between Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Tarkundi is in Nakyal sector, which has been at the centre of recent shelling between the two countries, sparked by an August attack on Indian troops which killed five soldiers in Poonch district. India blamed Pakistan for the attack, a charge Pakistan denies, and, since then, there has been a daily exchange of mainly mortar and small arms fire between the two armies across the LoC. The shelling, which violates a 2003 ceasefire agreement between the two countries, has been hitting military border posts and civilians alike, on either side of the border. In all, at least five civilians have been killed since the latest violence began, with at least two military personnel (both Pakistani) also reported to have died, according to officials and the Pakistani military. Dozens more, including several Indian and Pakistani soldiers, have been injured.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/09/2013919121632811984.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/09/2013919121632811984.html)

**Afghanistan**

**18 Afghan police killed in ambush: interior ministry**

Militants killed 18 Afghan police when officers returning from an anti-insurgent operation were caught in an ambush in the remote northeastern province of Badakhshan, the interior ministry said Friday.

"The acting interior minister is deeply saddened about the killing of 18 policemen and wounding of 13 others in a terrorist attack in Warduj district of Badakhshan," a statement said after the attack on Wednesday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ji1pgUXqRKnov\_TpiDsrQ9HGqIIg?docId=CNG.970d9252c535c68cf60c3f5f05ea765b.281**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ji1pgUXqRKnov_TpiDsrQ9HGqIIg?docId=CNG.970d9252c535c68cf60c3f5f05ea765b.281)

**Bangladesh**

**Strike enters second day**

A nationwide strike in Bangladesh has entered a second day after a senior political leader was handed the death sentence for crimes committed during the country's 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. The strike was the latest to hit Bangladesh, which has been reeling from deadly violence over the sentences given to Jamaat-e-Islami party members for atrocities committed during the independence war. Protests erupted across the country leaving one person dead, police said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/09/201391944024408917.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/09/201391944024408917.html)

**Nepal**

**HRW tells Nepal to appoint independent rights commissioners**

The Government of Nepal should appoint qualified, independent and new members to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Human Rights Watch said today. The HRW missive came four days after the government allowed the terms of all commissioners to lapse, leaving the commission leaderless and Nepali citizens with even less protection than before. "Effectively dismantling the National Human Rights Commission is a deliberate blow by the government to human rights at the most critical time since the end of the civil war," said Brad Adams, Asia director at HRW. Earlier, the commissioners had drawn attention to the end of their terms months ago and had called on the government to find a solution so that the country's chief human rights body would not be left without leadership. In spite of repeated reminders, including from citizen groups, the government chose to let the terms expire.

**ANI -** [**http://sg.news.yahoo.com/hrw-tells-nepal-appoint-independent-rights-commissioners-054751835.html**](http://sg.news.yahoo.com/hrw-tells-nepal-appoint-independent-rights-commissioners-054751835.html)

**Pakistan**

**Dengue emergency in Swat Valley**

Authorities in Pakistan's Swat Valley have declared a health emergency after nearly 5000 cases of dengue fever were reported in a month. The mosquito-borne virus has killed 12 people in the valley since August and the number of patients is increasing every day, doctors said. 'So far 12 people have died due to this disease and 4934 persons have been tested positive, we have declared a health emergency in the district,' the district health officer in Swat reported. He added that the outbreak has been declared as an epidemic. Officials said they believed infected larvae had been brought from Lahore in water in a consignment of old tyres.

**AFP -** [**http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=907642**](http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=907642)

**Sri Lanka**

**First poll to be held in Tamil areas for 25 years**

Sri Lanka will hold provincial elections in the former northern war zone in September for the first time in 25 years, officials said on Friday, a move demanded by the [UN](http://www.reuters.com/subjects/united-nations?lc=int_mb_1001) since the end of three decades of conflict in 2009. But Northern Province, which includes the Jaffna peninsula, has been under military control since the end of the war and the government had resisted requests by the West to pull out the army. Ariyaratne Athugala, director general of the Department of Government Information, said President Mahinda Rajapaksa had issued the proclamation to hold northern provincial council polls. The Elections Commission said they would probably be held on 21 or 28 September.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/05/us-srilanka-politics-idUSBRE96408N20130705**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/05/us-srilanka-politics-idUSBRE96408N20130705)

**Polls monitor, party workers, attacked in north**

A member of a Sri Lankan election monitoring group was attacked along with nine supporters of an ethnic minority Tamil political party by a group of gunmen who the victims said on Friday were clad in military uniform. Sri Lanka's military denied any involvement in the attack at around midnight on Thursday, at an office of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) party outside the northern town of Jaffna.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920083223-lf5f6/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920083223-lf5f6/?source=hpbreaking)

TACR

**Mexico**

**Heavy rain lashes northwest as storm misery spreads**

More rain lashed Mexico's northwest coast on Thursday, prompting evacuations and adding to flash floods that have created chaos across the country and killed at least 97 people. Storms have inundated vast areas of Mexico since the weekend, wrecking roads, destroying bridges and triggering landslides that buried homes and their occupants. In the Pacific resort of Acapulco, roads became raging torrents, stranding some 40,000 tourists. Dozens of people from a nearby village are missing after a deadly mudslide. President Enrique Pena Nieto announced he was cancelling a trip to the UN General Assembly in New York next week to focus on leading the relief efforts in Mexico.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130920020814-97k5i/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130920020814-97k5i/?source=hpbreaking)

WCAR

**DR Congo**

**Government rules out amnesty for top M23 rebels**

DRC has ruled out granting amnesty to some 100 senior M23 rebels, it said, leaving open the possibility that these commanders could be pursued even after peace talks are concluded. Talks began in Uganda, after the army, backed by UN troops, scored rare military successes in August, forcing M23 into negotiations which could lead to the majority of rebels being reintegrated into the army which they deserted in 2012. Rebels ineligible for any amnesty were those who had taken part in multiple rebellions, were on international sanctions lists or had committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, the government spokesperson reported.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130919161329-wkaul**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130919161329-wkaul)

**At least 80,000 people displaced by fresh fighting over past month**

Some 80,000 people have been driven from their homes in a new outbreak of violence in the eastern DRC over the past month following repeated clashes between the national army and rebels, the UN reported. “Entire villages have been emptied of their populations. Many of those displaced, fearing violence from the belligerents, are believed to still be in the forests in inaccessible areas,” the spokesperson for the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) said, stressing that humanitarian organizations were very concerned with the situation in the Ituri region of Orientale Province where the national army and the Front patriotique de l’Ituri (FRPI) - the Ituri Patriotic Front – have repeatedly clashed since August.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45883&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45883&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo)

**Nigeria**

**Forces, Boko Haram exchange gunfire in capital**

A Nigerian security official says Islamic extremists attacked a security team in the nation's capital. Marilyn Ogar, Deputy Director of the Department of State Services, said Friday that a security team was searching for hidden weapons when it was fired upon by members of Boko Haram, the Islamic radicals blamed for violent attacks that have killed thousands in Nigeria in recent years. Ogar said that two arrested members of Boko Haram led a security team to a site where they said arms were buried. She said some people were injured but did not say there were any deaths. She said 12 people were arrested. The shootout occurred near the residential compound for legislators.

**AFP-** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hA5ezZCkEf-DCNu\_OjURYlGoX6XQ?docId=CNG.ebf2e08f0eecbd5a56809912d68cb2aa.551**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hA5ezZCkEf-DCNu_OjURYlGoX6XQ?docId=CNG.ebf2e08f0eecbd5a56809912d68cb2aa.551)

**Insurgents in deadly rampage in northeast town**

Insurgents have rampaged through a town in northeastern Nigeria with heavy weapons, setting public buildings on fire and killing a soldier and the wife of a senior policeman, authorities reported. The attack was the latest carnage to hit the region, which has seen an upsurge in violence in recent days linked to a military offensive as well as attacks by extremist group Boko Haram. Armed with Kalashnikovs, rocket launchers and homemade bombs, the insurgents stormed Yadi Buni in Yobe state, leading to a shootout with troops in which a soldier was killed, the state police commissioner reported. They set fire to a makeshift police station, the fire service, a local education office and the home of the divisional police head in the town, whose wife was burnt to death inside, he said. Telecom towers in the town were also burnt by the Islamists, the police commissioner said. It was the second time Buni Yadi was attacked by Boko Haram in many months.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/19/insurgents-in-deadly-rampage-in-northeast-nigeria-town/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/19/insurgents-in-deadly-rampage-in-northeast-nigeria-town/)

**Boko Haram attack on town kills at least 87 people**

A gruesome attack by Boko Haram disguised in military uniforms and armed with heavy weapons in Nigeria's northeast has killed at least 87 people, a state government official reported. The insurgents also burnt scores of homes and buildings in the assault, according to locals, who reported seeing corpses littering the roadside. Boko Haram fighters set up checkpoints in the Benisheik area and gunned down motorists and travellers who tried to flee, according to multiple witness accounts. "Eighty-seven bodies were recovered in the bush and our people are still searching for more," an official of the Environmental Protection Agency in Borno state reported. Details of the attack in the town which has been previously been targeted by Boko Haram first emerged on 18 September. "They came in droves, driving about 20 pickup trucks," reported a security source stationed in the town. He said the insurgents were armed with "anti-aircraft guns," in the latest indication that Boko Haram has bolstered its arsenal in recent months.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5itey\_0cpLWd9HrONMNOv6ypIfMzw?docId=CNG.4e4f7432819d1257ad4a88112060e783.671&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5itey_0cpLWd9HrONMNOv6ypIfMzw?docId=CNG.4e4f7432819d1257ad4a88112060e783.671&hl=en)

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