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CEE/CIS

**Bulgaria**

**Bulgaria cracks down on illegal immigrants as tensions rise**

Bulgaria has turned back more than 100 clandestine immigrants at its border with Turkey at the weekend, an interior ministry official said Sunday, amid rising nationalist tensions in the European Union's poorest member. The group of migrants was stopped in the Strandzha mountains in the southeast of the country, the ministry's secretary general Svetlozar Lazarov told public radio. About 1,200 police officers were deployed in the mountainous and wooded region on Friday where around 100 migrants have been trying to cross the border every day for months. With an influx of nearly 10,000 people so far this year, Bulgarian authorities are struggling to accommodate the migrants and Interior Minister Tsvetlin Yovchev on November 4 announced plans aimed at speeding up expulsions of economic migrants, notably from northern Africa and Afghanistan.

**AFP -** [**http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/bulgaria-migration.rcx**](http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/bulgaria-migration.rcx)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Cambodia welcomes UN ruling on territorial dispute**

Cambodia welcomed and Thailand accepted a UN ruling Monday awarding most of the disputed border land around an ancient temple to Cambodia -- an issue which sparked deadly clashes in the past. Nervous Cambodian residents had dug bunkers or evacuated homes earlier Monday in anticipation of trouble following the International Court of Justice ruling at The Hague, while many Thai schools along the border were shut for the day. At least 28 people have been killed in outbreaks of violence since 2011 over the ownership of a patch of land next to the 900-year-old Preah Vihear temple. Despite the apparent blow, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra agreed to hold talks with Cambodia over the issue, adding she would protect her kingdom's interests. "The government has asked the military... to take care of peace along the border," she said in a television address, reflecting the importance of the issue to patriotic Thais.

**AFP-** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131111/cambodia-welcomes-un-ruling-territorial-dispute**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131111/cambodia-welcomes-un-ruling-territorial-dispute)

**Cambodia**

**Bird flu kills 13 people in Cambodia this year**

A ten-year-old boy died of bird flu on Saturday, bringing the death toll of the fatal disease to 13 in Cambodia so far this year, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said. "We regret to announce that the boy passed away in Kantha Bopha Hospital this morning," said Sonny Inbaraj Krishnan, communication and media relations officer at the WHO office in Cambodia. Only 11 out of the 24 cases this year survived. The boy was confirmed positive for human H5N1 avian influenza on Thursday after he was admitted to the Kantha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh with fever, cough, sore throat, a distended abdomen and dyspnea.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2013-11/09/c\_132873955.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2013-11/09/c_132873955.htm)

**Philippines**

**Survivors plead for help as scale of devastation becomes clear – UNICEF Mention**

Stunned survivors of one of the most powerful typhoons ever to make landfall picked through the remains of their homes Monday and pleaded for food and medicine as the Philippines struggled to deal with what is likely its deadliest natural disaster. Authorities said at least 2 million people in 41 provinces had been affected by Friday's disaster and at least 23,000 houses had been damaged or destroyed. Large areas along the coast had been transformed into twisted piles of debris, blocking roads and trapping decomposing bodies underneath. Ships were tossed inland, cars and trucks swept out to sea and bridges and ports washed away. "In some cases the devastation has been total," said Secretary to the Cabinet Rene Almendras.  
**AP -** [**http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\_162-57611701/philippines-typhoon-survivors-plead-for-help-as-scale-of-devastation-becomes-clear/**](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57611701/philippines-typhoon-survivors-plead-for-help-as-scale-of-devastation-becomes-clear/)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Somalia to take back one million refugees from Kenya**

Kenya on Sunday signed an agreement with Somalia to send home more than a million Somali refugees over the next three years. The agreement was inked by Deputy President William Ruto and Somalia’s Deputy Prime Minister and minister for Foreign Affairs, Fawzia Yusuf Adam. It is a joint plan not just to send the refugees home, but also have them re-integrated in Somali society once they get back. Kenya, Somalia as well as the international community, are required to provide resources to help in repatriating the refugees, majority of whom are currently based at the Dadaab refugee camp in Northern Kenya. Kenya hosts 610,000 documented and another 500,000 undocumented Somali refugees. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Mr Ruto said that 80,000 refugees had already left for Somalia.

**Africa Review** - [**http://www.africareview.com/News/Somalia-to-take-back-1m-refugees-from-Kenya/-/979180/2068360/-/6slju6/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/Somalia-to-take-back-1m-refugees-from-Kenya/-/979180/2068360/-/6slju6/-/index.html)

**Ethiopian troops to join AMISOM**

Ethiopian troops will join the African Mission to Somalia – AMISOM as part of renewed efforts to combat terrorism in the Horn of Africa region. Ethiopia Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has said Ethiopian troops will join the Kenya and Uganda troops that are part of the AMISOM fighting Al Shabaab insurgents inside Somalia. Speaking when he hosted Deputy President William Ruto at his office in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, the prime minister said his country’s security chiefs were already engaged in strategy talks with their Kenyan counterparts on the joint operation. Mr Desalegn said there was a renewed terror threat in Ethiopia and this called for a joint security operation to eliminate the threat. ‘The threat is real and the war against terror should continue in all fronts, said Desalegn.   
**Standard** - [**http://mareeg.com/ethiopian-troops-to-join-amisom/**](http://mareeg.com/ethiopian-troops-to-join-amisom/)

**Madagascar**

**Madagascar presidential race goes to run-off vote**

Madagascar's presidential race will go to a run-off vote next month between two candidates linked to the island's main political rivals, after an inconclusive first round, official results showed Friday. The top candidates in the October 25 vote, respectively backed by ousted leader Marc Ravalomanana and current strongman Andry Rajoelina, will square off on December 20. The electoral commission announced that Robinson Jean Louis, the candidate for exiled Ravalomanana, won 21.1 percent of votes and Hery Rajaonarimampianina, the favourite of Rajoelina, came second with 15.93 percent. The two shook hands amid cheers as the final results were announced in the capital Antananarivo, which international observers also attended.   
**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/madagascar-presidential-race-goes-run-off-vote-182423669.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/madagascar-presidential-race-goes-run-off-vote-182423669.html)

**Mozambique**

**Mozambique rebels sow fear in fresh uprising**

In this bustling Mozambican town, soldiers search buses, military police patrol streets and civilians are jittery after a surge in attacks by rebels that echoes the civil war that ended two decades ago. For now, though, it is just an echo. The violence that pits two old adversaries, the opposition group Renamo and the Frelimo ruling party, against each other is largely confined to Sofala, a central province where Renamo fighters hide and launch attacks. The unrest comes ahead of municipal elections on Nov. 20, and presidential and parliamentary elections in a year's time. Inchope lies at the crossroads of the highway from Zimbabwe to the eastern port of Beira and the main route to the capital, Maputo, more than 1,000 kilometers (600 miles), to the south. Mozambique's fast-growing economy, bolstered by energy reserves and other natural resources, could suffer if political tension and sporadic violence persist in this strategic location.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mozambique-rebels-sow-fear-fresh-uprising-20827551**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mozambique-rebels-sow-fear-fresh-uprising-20827551)

**Somalia**

**Deadly blast hits Hotel in Somalia**

A car loaded with explosives blew up outside one of Mogadishu’s most expensive hotels Friday evening, leaving what witnesses and officials described as a scene of devastation, burning vehicles and mangled victims. News services said that four to 11 people were killed and scores wounded in the blast, which appeared to be carried out by the Shabab, the militant Islamist insurgent group battling Somalia’s government. Some witnesses reported that the car bomb had been preceded by an explosion inside the lobby of the hotel, the Maka Al-Mukarama, which is popular with government officials and business executives, and that the wounded included a member of Parliament and a Somali journalist. There were unconfirmed reports that the hotel had been playing host to a number of high-level visitors at the time.

**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/09/world/africa/blast-hits-hotel-in-somalia.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/09/world/africa/blast-hits-hotel-in-somalia.html?_r=0)

LAC

**Haiti**

**Haiti anti-government protest turns violent**

Thousands of Haitian protesters have demanded the resignation of President Michel Martelly, clashing with supporters of the leader in the streets of Port-au-Prince. Protesters said two people suffered gunshot wounds after Martelly loyalists opened fire during Thursday's skirmishes that lasted for several hours. The two sides hurled stones at each other during the fighting, which brought parts of the city to a standstill and triggered huge traffic jams. Anti-Martelly demonstrators accused the Haitian president of cronyism, charging that he is ruling the impoverished Caribbean nation for the benefit of his friends and family. "We are from the ghettos. We get nothing from the government which works only for the rich," protester Johnny Joseph shouted. The march began peacefully as the crowd grew to a few thousand people and passed through poor neighbourhoods, many of them strongholds of government critics.

**AFP -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/11/haiti-anti-government-protest-turns-violent-201311852555670304.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/11/haiti-anti-government-protest-turns-violent-201311852555670304.html)

**Venezuela**

**Venezuela arrests looters, store bosses in 'economic war'**

President Nicolas Maduro's government announced arrests of both store managers and looters on Sunday as part of what it calls an "economic war" in Venezuela between the socialist state and unscrupulous businessmen. In a major pre-Christmas campaign reminiscent of the late President Hugo Chavez's dramatic style, Maduro has sent soldiers to "occupy" one chain of electronics stores and inspectors into scores of others to check for price-gouging. Thousands of Venezuelans have been flocking to electronics stores, hoping to take advantage of new "fair prices" the government is imposing, sometimes half the previous cost. However, scenes of looting on Saturday at a store belonging to the occupied electronics chain, Daka, have left many Venezuelans ashamed and fueled opposition claims that Maduro is stirring chaos rather than defending the poor.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/11/us-venezuela-economy-idUSBRE9A90G520131111**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/11/us-venezuela-economy-idUSBRE9A90G520131111)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Tear gas, clashes at Islamist-led protests in Egypt over detained female demonstrators**

Supporters of Egypt’s toppled president clashed with opponents Friday as security forces fired tear gas to break up their demonstrations over detained female protesters, part of an effort to draw wider support for their dwindling rallies. Meanwhile, the panel rewriting Egypt’s constitution approved an amendment abolishing the upper house of the country’s parliament, a decision that ultimately will rest with the country’s voters. Egypt has seen near-daily protests across the country since a July 3 popularly backed military coup ousted President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood-backed government from power. Friday, protesters again took to the streets after prayers to voice their dissent.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\_east/egypt-panel-rewriting-constitution-for-voters-backs-eliminating-upper-house-of-parliament/2013/11/08/e73f6c4e-4878-11e3-95a9-3f15b5618ba8\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/egypt-panel-rewriting-constitution-for-voters-backs-eliminating-upper-house-of-parliament/2013/11/08/e73f6c4e-4878-11e3-95a9-3f15b5618ba8_story.html)

**Two Egyptian soldiers shot dead near Ismailia**

Gunmen killed two Egyptian soldiers on Sunday in an attack on a military facility near the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, a security official said. A third soldier was wounded in the attack on the base, located on the road between Ismailia and the city of Zagazig, to the west in the Nile Delta. The gunmen opened fire from a passing vehicle, the official said. Attacks on the security forces have become commonplace since Islamist president Mohamed Mursi was removed from power by the army on July 3 following mass protests against his rule. His downfall set off an armed campaign against the state by militants in the Sinai Peninsula with links to al Qaeda. Gunmen have also struck in towns and cities to the west of Sinai in the Suez Canal area and the Nile Valley. The interim government installed by the army says it is fighting a war on terrorism, with the army launching a campaign to re-establish control of the Sinai.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/10/uk-egypt-shooting-idUKBRE9A90IM20131110**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/10/uk-egypt-shooting-idUKBRE9A90IM20131110)

**Iran**

**Gunman kills Iranian deputy minister in Tehran**

Iran's official news agency is reporting that a gunman has shot and killed a deputy industry minister. The report Sunday by IRNA said Safdar Rahmatabadi was shot twice in head and chest that night in an eastern neighborhood of Tehran. The report quoted police as saying they believed the deputy minister was shot by someone traveling with him in his car. Police said they had begun an investigation. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Rahmatabadi was not a well-known public figure in moderate President Hassan Rouhani's government. This is the second attack in recent days on a government official in Iran. On Wednesday, a gunman killed an Iranian state prosecutor in a restive southeastern region near the country's border with Pakistan.

**AP -** [**http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\_162-57611689/report-gunman-kills-iranian-deputy-minister-in-tehran/**](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57611689/report-gunman-kills-iranian-deputy-minister-in-tehran/)

**Iraq**

**Attacks concentrated in north Iraq kill seven**

Attacks across Iraq, the deadliest of which struck the main northern city of Mosul, left seven people dead and 50 wounded Sunday, the latest in a months-long surge in bloodletting. The violence comes ahead of annual Shiite commemoration ceremonies, when Sunni militants often mount attacks more frequently, and as Iraq grapples with continuing bloodshed despite wide-ranging operations targeting insurgents and tightened security measures. The spike in unrest has spurred Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to appeal for greater cooperation with the United States in combatting militancy, while Turkey on Sunday offered to help as well.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131110-attacks-concentrated-north-iraq-kill-seven**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131110-attacks-concentrated-north-iraq-kill-seven)

**Libya**

**Libya PM warns foreign forces may act to halt chaos**

Prime Minister Ali Zeidan warned Libyans of the possibility of foreign powers intervening unless the country's current chaos ends, in an appeal Sunday aimed at rallying his campaign against militias. "The international community cannot tolerate a state in the middle of the Mediterranean that is a source of violence, terrorism and murder," said Zeidan. Citing the example of Iraq, he warned against "the intervention of foreign occupation forces" in Libya. Zeidan said his country was still subject to a resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter that allows the international community to intervene to protect civilians. Libya's government has struggled to assert its authority as militias of ex-rebels have carved their own fiefdoms in a country flooded with weapons looted from the arsenal of the ousted regime of Moamer Kadhafi.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5imKymSbP--dYTbYEwpbOPwp9FSlA?docId=ce145056-db4f-4e31-82d6-7133b5b2f5f9**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5imKymSbP--dYTbYEwpbOPwp9FSlA?docId=ce145056-db4f-4e31-82d6-7133b5b2f5f9)

**Attacks in eastern Libya kill six in under 24 hours**

A string of attacks in eastern Libya has killed a public prosecutor and five members of the security forces in less than 24 hours, judicial and medical sources said Saturday. Since the ouster of veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi in October 2011, eastern Libya has been hit by a wave of bombings and shootings, mostly targeting security officials. Prosecutor Mohamed al-Naass was killed in the town of Derna on Saturday when an explosive device attached to his car detonated, a judicial source told AFP. Also on Saturday, unidentified gunmen shot dead two traffic policemen, Al-Jala hospital spokeswoman Fadia al-Barghathi told AFP. In nearby Benghazi, Libya's second city, gunmen driving past an army checkpoint shot dead two special forces soldiers late on Friday, she said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/eastern-libya-attacks-kill-four-under-24-hours-135136743.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/eastern-libya-attacks-kill-four-under-24-hours-135136743.html)

**Oman**

**Oman says first MERS-coronavirus sufferer dies in hospital**

Oman's first MERS coronavirus patient died in hospital on Sunday from lung failure, state news agency ONA said. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), which can cause coughing, fever and pneumonia, emerged in Saudi Arabia last year and has been reported in Qatar, France, Germany, Italy, Tunisia and Britain. ONA quoted the Health Ministry as saying the 68-year-old man, who was admitted to hospital last month in the oasis town of Nizwa, southwest of Muscat, had been suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure, among other complaints. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates last week reported four other people who had been admitted to hospital with the disease, while Qatar's Supreme Health Council said one patient had recovered after hospital treatment.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/10/us-coronavirus-oman-idUSBRE9A90F520131110**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/10/us-coronavirus-oman-idUSBRE9A90F520131110)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Clashes between police, foreign workers leave 2 dead**

Two people were killed and 68 others injured in clashes between police and foreign workers following a visa crackdown in Saudi Arabia, the official news agency reported. Police arrested 561 people Saturday in the capital of Riyadh, according to the Saudi Press Agency. The arrests came after "unidentified" people barricaded themselves in narrow streets, where they threw stones at residents and vandalized shops and cars, according to a police statement posted on the news agency's website. In the aftermath of Saturday's clashes, a police spokesman urged workers without proper documents to surrender at a shelter in the capital until they could be deported. Most of the workers impacted by recent police raids are African migrants. Reports circulated last week of the death of an Ethiopian man, prompting the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry to issue a statement that it "condemned the killing of an Ethiopian and mistreatment of its citizens residing in Saudi Arabia."

**CNN** - [**http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/10/world/meast/saudi-arabia-visa-protests/**](http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/10/world/meast/saudi-arabia-visa-protests/)

**Sudan**

**Heavy fighting in Darfur, tribes say**

Arab tribal militias fired rockets, artillery and heavy machine guns during battle across a wide swathe of Sudan's South Darfur on Sunday, sources on both sides said. They said they could not yet give a casualty count, but tribal unrest which worsened this year in Darfur has already killed hundreds. "The fighting spread over a wide area and both sides are using heavy, heavy weapons," said a source from the Taisha tribe. The rival Salamat tribe said fighting continued into Sunday night. "It spread from around Rahad el Berdi up to near Nyala," said a Salamat source, who like his Taisha counterpart asked not to be named. Both sides said a land dispute sparked the battle. Rahad el Berdi is more than 100km southwest of Sudan's second-largest city Nyala. The Salamat have been fighting off-and-on with the Misseriya tribe, a Taisha ally, in southwest Darfur since April. More than 20 people died on 27 October when the Misseriya and Salamat clashed near Mukjar town, northwest of Rahad el Berdi, the UN said.

**AFP** - [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5icQlavE\_CZPGTIJDgq6nkVtZ6j5A?docId=5377b499-f699-4e0a-b0c8-28ee7c91740e&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5icQlavE_CZPGTIJDgq6nkVtZ6j5A?docId=5377b499-f699-4e0a-b0c8-28ee7c91740e&hl=en)

**Syria**

**Mortar Round Kills 5 in suburb of Damascus**

Syrian activists say a mortar round has hit a Damascus suburb, killing a man and his four children. The British-Based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Monday that the round landed on the man's car in the residential area of Jaramana. The Observatory said many more were wounded, including the children's mother. It was part of a series of salvos that slammed into the neighborhood on Sunday evening. It wasn't clear who fired the shells. There are frequent clashes in a nearby town between Syrian forces loyal to the government of President Bashar Assad and rebels trying to overthrow him. The Observatory receives its information from a network of activists on the ground. The Syrian news agency SANA reported the same incident but said three children were killed.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-activists-truce-made-blockaded-town-20842062**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-activists-truce-made-blockaded-town-20842062)

**Syria-based groups say talks may be 'last chance'**

A coalition of Syria-based opposition groups warned Monday that a proposed international peace conference to negotiate an end to the three-year conflict might be the "last chance" for a solution. The statement by the Coalition of Forces for Peaceful Change is the latest call of support for the talks, which the U.S. and Russia are trying to convene in Geneva by the end of the year. But the so-called "internal opposition," which ranges from officials close to the government of President Bashar Assad to intellectuals and parties that have opposed the rule of Assad's Baath party for decades, has little influence over the disparate armed groups fighting the government.   
**AP** - [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-activists-truce-made-blockaded-town-20842062**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-activists-truce-made-blockaded-town-20842062)

**Yemen**

**2 killed in sectarian violence between Salafis and Shiites in north**

Security officials in Yemen say sectarian clashes in its restive north between rebels and ultraconservative Sunnis have killed two people and injured 12. Shiite rebels known as Hawthis have been fighting ultraconservative Salafis and jihadists in the city of Damaj in the northern Saada province. Security officials said Friday that 12 people also were injured in recent fighting in the last two days. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. Serour al-Wadie, a spokesman of the Salafi movement, said Hawthis used mortars and rocket-propelled grenades in an attack Friday on a mosque in Damaj. Earlier this week, President Abed Rabbo Mansour

Hadi urged both sides to stop the violence in remarks aired on state television.

**AP -** [**http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/world/killed+sectarian+violence+between+Salafis+Shiites+Yemens/9142981/story.html**](http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/world/killed+sectarian+violence+between+Salafis+Shiites+Yemens/9142981/story.html)

ROSA

**Across ROSA   
India fears more militants as US quits Afghanistan**

India is bracing for more militancy in the battle-scarred region of Kashmir, believing that fighters now focused on resisting U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan will shift toward the Himalayan flashpoint with Pakistan. Some say increased violence recently along India's heavily militarized border with Pakistan proves that shift is already underway. As a result, India is increasing use of drones, thermal sensors and foot patrols as it tries to catch out any battle-hardened militants moving through the forested mountains near the frontier. At the same time, Indian troops have increasingly been engaging in skirmishes with Pakistan's military.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/india-fears-more-militants-us-quits-afghanistan-075431961.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/india-fears-more-militants-us-quits-afghanistan-075431961.html)

**Afghanistan**

**Roadside bombs kill 12 in south Afghanistan**

Two roadside bombs exploded Friday in different parts of Afghanistan's volatile south, killing 12 people, including five women, Afghan officials said. The deputy governor of Zabul province, Mohammed Rasoolyar, said a bomb destroyed a bus near the provincial capital, Qalat, killing all nine people on board. The bombing took place along a main highway that links the capital, Kabul, with the restive south, Rasoolyar said. In Kandahar province, the birthplace of the Taliban, two men and a child died when the motorcycle they were riding hit a roadside bomb in Ghorak district, a hotbed of Taliban activity, said Javid Faisel, a spokesman for the provincial governor. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings, but blame likely will fall on Taliban insurgents.

**AP -** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Roadside-bombs-kill-12-in-south-Afghanistan-4966459.php**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Roadside-bombs-kill-12-in-south-Afghanistan-4966459.php)

**Bangladesh**

**Bangladesh authorities arrest opposition leaders**

Bangladeshi authorities have arrested three senior leaders of the main opposition party amid increasing tensions ahead of next year's elections, an official said Saturday. Police detectives arrested Moudud Ahmed, M.K. Anwar and Rafiqul Islam Mia late Friday, hours after an alliance led by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party announced its latest nationwide strike. The three-day strike is due to start Sunday morning to pressure the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to quit and appoint a caretaker to oversee the elections. Police on Saturday also arrested a prominent businessman who is tied to the main opposition party and another aide of opposition leader Khaleda Zia.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bangladesh-arrests-opposition-leaders-20835646**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bangladesh-arrests-opposition-leaders-20835646)

**Maldives**

**Maldives Court Postpones Presidential Runoff**

The first democratically elected president of the Maldives and the brother of the country's former autocratic ruler have qualified for a runoff, according to results in the island nation's presidential election. But the Supreme Court postponed Sunday's runoff by six days, setting the stage for a constitutional crisis in this tourist paradise nation, which has been buffeted by political turmoil for the past five years. Mohamed Nasheed, who resigned as president of the Indian Ocean archipelago last year, won nearly 47 percent of the popular vote in Saturday's election, while Yaamin Abdul Gayoom, the brother of 30-year autocratic ruler Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, trailed with 30 percent.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/maldivians-finally-vote-elect-president-20837778**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/maldivians-finally-vote-elect-president-20837778)

**Pakistan**

**Children from KP to be administered polio drops**

District Coordination Officer (DCO) Sajid Zafar Dal on Friday asked the health department to establish transit camps at entry points of the district for the upcoming anti-polio campaign. “All the children coming from Khyber Pukhtunkhawa will be administered polio drops before they enter the district,” he stated this while addressing the meeting held in his office to review the anti-polio campaign arrangement. The polio virus has been found in the sewerage of Rawalpindi for third consecutive months in September and the fear of expected polio case ran through WHO and health department. WHO expressed apprehension over the presence of polio virus in the sewerage of the city areas and asked the district administration to do more to save more than 700,000 innocent children in the district. The DCO also directed all the city district government departments to nominate staff by Sunday for anti-polio campaign.

**DAWN -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1055128/children-from-kp-to-be-administered-polio-drops**](http://dawn.com/news/1055128/children-from-kp-to-be-administered-polio-drops)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**From Burkina Faso, displaced Malians eye reconciliation**

As hundreds of thousands of displaced Malians begin returning to their homes in the north, post-conflict ethnic reconciliation remains a key challenge for officials in Bamako. But at the Sag-Nioniogo refugee camp in central Burkina Faso, where an ethnic patchwork of uprooted northern Malians have found ways to get past the tensions and live in harmony, divisions over the question of an independent northern Mali persist. The Tuareg rebellion that began in January 2012 was fueled by strong ethnic and communal undercurrents. After it was hijacked by jihadists drawing from regional Arab and Tuareg communities, as well as members of Peul and Songhoy ethnic groups, hundreds of thousands of civilians from all these communities were forced to flee the violence and rising communal tensions.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/in-burkina-faso-refugee-camp-northern-malians-head-home-with-eye-on-reconciliation/1786581.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/in-burkina-faso-refugee-camp-northern-malians-head-home-with-eye-on-reconciliation/1786581.html)

**CAR**

**Hunger stalks 1.1 million people in C.Africa**

Twenty percent of the population in the restive Central African Republic -- 1.1 million people -- are under threat from hunger because of poor harvests and violence, the UN's World Food Programme warned Friday. They "are unable to meet their daily food needs on a regular basis or require food assistance in order to get by," the agency said in a statement. The impoverished landlocked nation has been mired in chaos since the Seleka coalition of rebels ousted longtime president Francois Bozize in March. Although officially disbanded, Seleka elements continue to operate as a proto-militia, with reports of them looting villages and clashing with vigilante groups.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131108/hunger-stalks-11-million-people-cafrica**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131108/hunger-stalks-11-million-people-cafrica)

**UN rights chief warns cycle of violence may ‘spin out of control’**

The top United Nations human rights official warned today that the deteriorating violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) may spin out of control, further destabilizing the country. “The latest clashes between ex-Séléka forces and various self-defence groups, are extremely worrying. Such violent incidents have heightened tensions among communities, caused splits along religious and sectarian lines and could lead to further destabilization in the country,” said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay. “For decades, diverse ethnic and religious communities have lived together in this country. This escalation of violence and hatred must be halted before it spins completely out of control.” Plagued by decades of instability and fighting, the CAR witnessed a resumption of violence last December when the Séléka rebel coalition launched a series of attacks.

**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46449&Cr=Central+African+Republic&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46449&Cr=Central+African+Republic&Cr1)**=**

**DR Congo**

**Congo, M23 rebels set to sign peace deal**

The Democratic Republic of Congo is set to sign a peace deal Monday with M23 rebels, a week after the group announced it was halting its fighting to pursue its goals through political means. The signing is taking place in neighboring Uganda, which has hosted peace talks between Congo and M23. The agreement is expected to detail the process for demobilizing rebel fighters, some of which are likely to be integrated into the Congolese army. The United Nations special envoy for the region, Mary Robinson, said on Sunday that the peace deal is an important step towards peace. Eastern Congo has been ravaged by years of fighting between the government and various rebel groups, often competing for control of the area's rich mines.

**VoA -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201311111066.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201311111066.html)

**Mali**

**Army and militants clash**

Insurgents launched an attack on the Malian army in the rebel-hit country's northeast, military sources said, in renewed fighting ahead of planned peace talks with the government. The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), ambushed soldiers as they were on patrol at a market near the border with Niger, several military sources based across the country reported. One source in the north said three militants were killed and one soldier wounded in the brief exchange of fire, although this could not be independently verified. "At the fair in Amazragane, 150 kilometres east of Menaka, a Malian army patrol was engaged by the MNLA," he reported. "The MNLA death toll was three, and six were taken prisoner and a vehicle was seized. On the Malian army side, one soldier was wounded. Right now everything is back to normal." A Malian army officer based in Gao confirmed the clash took place but would not give further details, while another source in Bamako put the MNLA death toll at two.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131108/army-and-militants-clash-conflict-scarred-mali**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131108/army-and-militants-clash-conflict-scarred-mali)

**Troubled Mali confident key polls can be held**

Mali's government is confident that the shaky security situation in the desert north will not stop nationwide legislative elections from going ahead later this month, a minister said in an interview published Sunday. "We believe that things can improve by November 24 as far as the legislative elections are concerned," Cheick Oumar Diarrah, minister of northern reconciliation and development, said in an interview with TV5 Monde, Radio France Internationale (RFI) and the influential daily Le Monde. "We are optimistic because of ongoing (peace) talks and powerful action to bring those who take part in the dialogue (with the Malian government) in Ouagadougou into a positive dynamic," he added without elaborating. Conflict-scarred Mali has been the target of a series of attacks claimed by Islamist insurgents since France launched a military operation in January against Al-Qaeda-linked groups occupying the north of the country.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/105229-troubled-mali-confident-key-polls-can-be-held**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/105229-troubled-mali-confident-key-polls-can-be-held)

**Mali President replaces Junta-linked army chief**

Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has replaced the head of the army, further marginalizing officers involved in a coup that helped plunge the West African nation into turmoil last year. A military junta led by Amadou Sanogo, then a captain and now a general, overthrew President Amandou Toumani Toure in March 2012. The chaos created by the putsch allowed al Qaeda-linked fighters to seize more than half the country until a French-led intervention this year broke their grip. The decision to replace army chief of staff General Ibrahim Dahirou Dembele, an ally of Sanogo appointed under a post-coup transitional authority, was taken during a cabinet meeting on Friday, a government statement said.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/mali-president-repleaces-junta-linked-army-chief/1787125.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/mali-president-repleaces-junta-linked-army-chief/1787125.html)

**Niger**

**One million facing food shortage in Niger - UNICEF Mention**

About one million people in Niger, one of the world's poorest nations, are facing severe food shortages due to poor harvests after a drought and flooding, Prime Minister Brigi Rafini said. "This season was not what we expected," Rafini said during a parliamentary debate Saturday according to a television report on Sunday. "We can write off this year." Rafini said that according to a first evaluation "about one million are at risk and must be assisted". Figures about the actual needs would be published shortly, so people could be helped until the end of December at a cost of about 84 million euros ($112 million) which would be financed with the support of international partners. Niger, 80 percent of which is covered by the Sahara desert, was hit by severe floods earlier this year, that killed at least 32 people and left 230,000 homeless, also wiping out crops.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/one-million-facing-food-shortage-niger-pm-144230909.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/one-million-facing-food-shortage-niger-pm-144230909.html)

**Senegal**

**Senegal, Casamance rebels set talks agenda**

Senegal and the Casamance separatists have agreed on an agenda for peace talks aimed at ending the three-decade rebellion, Catholic mediators in the process said Sunday. The deal was reached during a November 3 meeting brokered in Rome by the Community of Sant'Egidio, a charity with ties to the Vatican specialising in peace mediation. The consultations, which took place at Sant'Egidio's Rome headquarters, "yielded a joint draft agenda for the negotiations", a statement said. The Senegalese government envoys and the Casamance Movement of Democratic Forces (MFDC) delegation led by Salif Sadio "agreed on the issues to be discussed and the order in which to discuss them.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131110/senegal-casamance-rebels-set-talks-agenda**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131110/senegal-casamance-rebels-set-talks-agenda)

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