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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Israel adopts new measures against African migrants**

The Israeli cabinet approved Sunday measures aimed at deporting thousands of Africans who illegally entered the country and who are perceived by it as a threat to its Jewish character. A statement from the prime minister's office said that beyond the measures, which include a crackdown on employers and financial incentives for home-bound Africans, the interior ministry has drafted a bill that would enable detainment of illegal migrants for one year without trial. The new bill, which will be brought before parliament on Monday for an initial hearing and vote, was formulated after a previous law from 2012 allowing the three-year detainment without trial of illegals was overturned by Israel's supreme court in September. According to the statement, a "closed facility" will serve as detention centre for migrants who manage to enter the Jewish state, which has nearly finished the construction of a fence along its southern border, as

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gkMbteRl5\_Gakeve0RT5IzRZU0bg?docId=108df97d-266c-4dca-b337-131bc6e569dc**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gkMbteRl5_Gakeve0RT5IzRZU0bg?docId=108df97d-266c-4dca-b337-131bc6e569dc)

**Egypt expels Turkish ambassador, Turkey retaliates**

Egypt said on Saturday it was expelling Turkey's ambassador and accused Ankara of backing organisations bent on undermining the country - an apparent reference to the Muslim Brotherhood of ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Mursi. Turkey, which had forged close ties with Egypt under Mursi, responded by declaring the Egyptian ambassador, currently out of the country, persona non grata. "We are saddened by this situation," Turkey's foreign ministry said in a statement. "But responsibility before history belongs to Egypt's temporary administration which came to power under the extraordinary circumstances of the July 3 coup." Turkey has emerged as one of the fiercest international critics of Mursi's removal, calling it an "unacceptable coup". Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood, which has been staging protests calling for his reinstatement, has close ties with Turkish Prime Minster Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/egypt-turkey-idINDEE9AM06720131123**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/egypt-turkey-idINDEE9AM06720131123)

**Israel denounces Iranian nuclear deal as historic mistake**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday denounced the world powers' nuclear agreement with Iran as a historic mistake that left the production of atomic weapons within Tehran's reach. A grim-faced Netanyahu, who had strongly opposed any easing of economic sanctions against Iran - in a rift with Israel's main ally, the United States - told his cabinet his government would not be bound by the Geneva deal. He repeated a long-standing Israeli threat of possible military action against Iran - even as a member of his security cabinet acknowledged the interim accord limited that option. "What was achieved last night in Geneva is not a historic agreement, it was a historic mistake," Netanyahu said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131124095804-ym87a/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131124095804-ym87a/?source=hptop)

**How to stop a deadly fungus affecting billion: WHO**

WHO estimates that billions of people in the developing world are chronically exposed to aflatoxin, a natural poison on food crops which causes cancer, impairs the immune system, inhibits growth, and causes liver disease as well as death in both humans and animals. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) aflatoxins contaminate one-quarter of the global food supply and over half the world’s population; 4.5 billion people are exposed to high, unmonitored levels, primarily in developing countries. In sub-Saharan African alone, an estimated 26,000 people die annually of liver cancer associated with aflatoxin exposure. Aflatoxins not only pose serious health risks, but are believed to be detrimental to efforts to improve food security and international food trade. According to the FAO, an estimated 25 percent of the world’s food crops are affected by aflatoxins.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99196/briefing-how-to-stop-a-deadly-fungus-affecting-billions**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99196/briefing-how-to-stop-a-deadly-fungus-affecting-billions)

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Pro-EU Ukrainians mass in biggest rally since Orange Revolution**

Pro-West Ukrainians on Sunday staged the biggest protest rally in Kiev since the 2004 Orange Revolution, demanding that the government sign a key pact with the European Union and clashing with police. Hundreds of protesters attempted to storm the government building - after the main rally attracted tens of thousands in central Kiev - but police forced them back with batons and tear gas, an AFP correspondent said. The opposition called the rally after President Viktor Yanukovych's government reversed a plan to sign a historic deal deepening ties with the European Union, in a U-turn critics said was forced by the Kremlin. Police said that some 23,000 people turned out but the opposition said attendance met its target of 100,000 people. The centre of Kiev was covered in a sea of protesters waving EU and Ukrainian flags. The rally was by far the biggest in Kiev since the Orange Revolution nine years ago, which resulted in the annulment of presidential election results initially claimed by Yanukovych.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j94k0QoLO\_FGd-2bOV1MpNhgLBNw?docId=a098f683-902c-4611-814e-36a521d681bc**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j94k0QoLO_FGd-2bOV1MpNhgLBNw?docId=a098f683-902c-4611-814e-36a521d681bc)

EAPR

**China**

**Jihadist group speaks out on China car attack**

A militant Islamist organisation has said last month's deadly car crash in Beijing's Tiananmen Square was a "jihadi operation", and predicted more violence, according to the US-based monitoring group SITE. A video posted online by the Turkestan Islamic Party showed the organisation's leader Abdullah Mansour speaking in Uighur, said the Washington-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist forums. According to Chinese police, three Xinjiang Uighurs drove a car loaded with petrol canisters into the gate of the Forbidden City on October 28. The incident left two people dead, besides the three in the car, and 40 injured. In an eight-minute message, Mansour, his face obscured, described whose who carried out the attack as "mujahideen", SITE said. He warned that Uighur fighters would target the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square, where the ruling Communist Party holds its meetings. Mansour was quoted as saying: "Chinese unbelievers, know that you have been fooling East Turkestan for the last 60 years, but now they have awakened.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h99ju-HBPT\_jN7yqH-luw-dg5wSQ?docId=44b8e714-58ed-4ade-8072-ae2454c37b8c**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h99ju-HBPT_jN7yqH-luw-dg5wSQ?docId=44b8e714-58ed-4ade-8072-ae2454c37b8c)

**Islamist group calls Tiananmen attack 'jihadi operation': SITE**

An Islamist group calling itself the Turkestan Islamic Party said a deadly car crash in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on October 28 was a "jihadi operation" by its mujahideen, or holy warriors, the SITE monitoring service said. The service, which tracks Islamist militant statements, said the party had released a Uighur language audio speech from its leader Abdullah Mansour in which he said such operations were only the beginning of attacks on Chinese authorities. In the attack, a vehicle ploughed through bystanders on the edge of the capital's Tiananmen Square and burst into flames, killing the three people in the car and two bystanders. In an eight-minute message, Mansour said Uighur fighters would target even the Great Hall of the People, where the Chinese parliament meets and China's Communist Party holds legislative and ceremonial activities, SITE said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/us-china-attack-claim-idUSBRE9AM0B520131123**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/us-china-attack-claim-idUSBRE9AM0B520131123)

**Indonesia**

**Indonesia orders mass evacuation as alert raised on Sumatra volcano**

Indonesia ordered the evacuation of 15,000 residents near an active volcano in the west of the vast archipelago on Sunday as authorities raised the alert for the emergency to the highest level. Mount Sinabung on the island of Sumatra has become increasingly active in recent months, spewing columns of ash several km into the air. Authorities expanded the evacuation radius to 5 km from 3 km and the military geared up to move residents out. About 6,000 have already been evacuated from the area, 88 km from Medan, capital of North Sumatra province. No casualties were reported as the status of the volcano was raised from "standby" to "caution". "We have raised the status to 'caution', which is the highest of levels for volcanic activity because we anticipate there will be more eruptions and because the intensity of eruptions has been increasing," the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/24/us-indonesia-volcano-idUSBRE9AN0A220131124**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/24/us-indonesia-volcano-idUSBRE9AN0A220131124)

**Myanmar**

**When mob was Rohingya, Myanmar's response ruthless**

The sectarian violence that has gripped this predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million in the last 16 months has been most intense in the western state of Rakhine, where 200 people have been killed in rioting and another 140,000 forced to flee their homes. Three-quarters of the victims have been Muslims - most of them members of the minority Rohingya community - but it is they who have suffered most at the hands of security forces. For every Buddhist arrested, jailed and convicted in connection with mob violence across Rakhine state, roughly four Rohingya went to prison, according to data compiled by The Associated Press. Members of the ethnic minority often have been severely punished, even when there is little or no evidence of wrongdoing.

**AP -** [**http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS\_MYANMAR\_RUTHLESS\_JUSTICE?SITE=TXCOR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT**](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_MYANMAR_RUTHLESS_JUSTICE?SITE=TXCOR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

**Thailand   
More than 1,000 Thai protesters enter Foreign Ministry**

More than 1,000 anti-government demonstrators entered the compound of Thailand's Foreign Ministry on Monday as part of protests aimed at overthrowing Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Protesters lifted the main gate of the ministry and drove a car and a six-wheel truck into the compound to use as a temporary stage, a Reuters witness said. Leaders of the protest announced they would occupy and stay overnight at the ministry. Earlier, about 1,000 anti-government demonstrators forced their way into the Finance Ministry and protest leaders called for the occupation of other government buildings in an escalating bid to topple the government.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131125113610-ovyd2/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131125113610-ovyd2/?source=hpbreaking)

**Floods hit Southern Thailand, killing two**

Two people have been killed over the past few days by the heavy flooding in several southern provinces of Thailand, the Nation newspaper reported on Monday. An eight-year-old boy was washed away in a flash flood in Surat Thani's Tha Chana district Saturday afternoon. His body was found 100 meters downstream on Sunday. He was the first casualty of the current flooding in the south. A man was later reportedly drowned in Phatthalung province while fishing at a lake. Following several days of torrential rains, four districts of Surat Thani province were declared disaster zones with 4,070 households affected and 41 roads and 21 bridges left damaged or impassable. The total damage was estimated at 21 million baht. About 120 households in Prachuab Khiri Khan were evacuated after one-metre-deep floodwater inundated their homes. In Phatthalung, four of 11 districts are under deep floodwater, with the highest at two meters.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/25/c\_132916798.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/25/c_132916798.htm)

ESAR

**Angola Angolan police fire teargas to disperse opposition protest**

Angolan police fired teargas and warning shots on Saturday to disperse hundreds of opposition supporters demonstrating in the capital against the disappearance and possible murder of two anti-government activists.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' MPLA party accused the main UNITA opposition group this week of promoting "chaos" with its plans for nationwide rallies to tap into public anger in Africa's number two oil producer at the two disappearances. Prosecutors said last week that Isaias Cassule and Antonio Alves Camulingui, who were involved in organising protests by former presidential guards to demand payment of wage arrears, had been kidnapped and possibly murdered in May 2012. Angola's Interior Ministry advised UNITA on Friday to cancel the rallies as they would coincide with a public march planned by the MPLA ruling party. A police spokesman later said they were not

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131123143036-tmdzd**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131123143036-tmdzd)

LAC

**Honduras**

**Conservative leads Honduras poll, but leftist says she won**

Honduras's tight presidential race took a jaw-dropping turn late Sunday as the electoral board said a conservative was leading even as a leftist declared that she had won. Conservative Juan Orlando Hernandez was leading in Honduras's presidential vote Sunday, garnering 34.97 percent of the vote, the electoral board reported. With 24 percent of ballots tallied, he was trailed by leftist Xiomara Castro, with 28.36 percent, the board said, stressing that no winner had been declared. "We are not making a statement on who may win, nor have we declared a winner; still, these are real data," council chief David Matamoros said. Still, Castro, out on an unofficial limb, claimed victory for herself in what was expected to be a close finish in the poverty-stricken Central American nation.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/poverty-coup-legacy-play-honduras-picks-president-080204916.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/poverty-coup-legacy-play-honduras-picks-president-080204916.html)

**Mexico**

**New mass graves in Mexico dredge up plight of missing**

Amid Mexico's continuous drug conflict, the recent discovery of dozens of bodies in mass graves has led some to describe the plight of the country's disappeared as a national emergency. At least 54 corpses have been recovered in clandestine pits in three states this month alone, including 33 in a western region plagued by violent cartels. The discoveries have left authorities scrambling to identify the dead in a country where thousands of people have been missing for years. "We have a very serious humanitarian crisis, a national emergency regarding the disappeared," Julio Hernandez, a member of the government's victim care commission, told AFP. The prosecutor's offices in Mexico's 31 states and the capital need more forensic experts and DNA laboratories, Hernandez said, comparing the situation to the Balkan wars. Some of the dead found at the border of the western states of Jalisco and Michoacan are mere bones, suggesting they were buried months ago. Other corpses found in the southwest and north of the country may be more than a year old.

**AFP -** [**http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2013/11/23/national-emergency-new-mass-graves-in-mexico-dredge-up-plight-of-missing**](http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2013/11/23/national-emergency-new-mass-graves-in-mexico-dredge-up-plight-of-missing)

**Gov't says cholera outbreak in central Mexico is "under control"**

Mexican health authorities said that the cholera outbreak in the central region of the country is "under control" and that a total of 184 cases have been confirmed in four states and Mexico City.“ The total number of confirmed cases in the country stands at 184 up to now and includes two in Mexico City, two in San Luis Potosi, nine in Mexico state, 11 in the state of Veracruz and 160 in Hidalgo," the federal Health Secretariat said in a communique. The department said the epidemic was controlled thanks to the care and prevention measures in effect, plus the public's cooperation with official recommendations on how to keep the disease from spreading. It also said that in the campaign against cholera some 53,000 homes were visited, 58,000 envelopes of oral serum and more than 22,000 bottles of colloidal silver were delivered, 18 tons of chlorine for purifying water were distributed, and laboratory tests were made of over 2,000 samples from the water system.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/health/2013/11/23/govt-says-cholera-outbreak-in-central-mexico-is-under-control/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/health/2013/11/23/govt-says-cholera-outbreak-in-central-mexico-is-under-control/)

**Nicaragua**

**US concerned about Nicaragua plan to end presidential term limits**

The US on Friday criticized a proposal by Nicaragua's ruling party to remove presidential term limits, which could allow Washington's former Cold War adversary Daniel Ortega to stay in power indefinitely. Earlier this month Ortega's Sandinista National Liberation Front put forward a plan to change the constitution that would end restrictions on re-election, although the president has yet to say publicly whether he wants to run again in 2016. Nicaragua's law had a two-term limit for presidents but that was overridden by a controversial Supreme Court ruling that allowed Ortega to run for office again in 2011. The US government expressed concern about the new proposal, which would make Nicaragua the latest in a string of Latin American countries from Bolivia to Ecuador to grant presidents power extending beyond their traditional limits.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/us-nicaragua-usa-idUSBRE9AM01S20131123**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/us-nicaragua-usa-idUSBRE9AM01S20131123)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Egypt to start fuel cuts in 2014: PM**

Egypt’s government will start cutting fuel subsidies before it leaves office next year, prim minister Hazem al-Beblawi said Sunday, but the ambitious reform hinges on an end to the country’s turmoil. Beblawi’s government, installed by the military after it overthrew president Mohamed Morsi in July, contends with a determined Islamist protest movement that the prime minister accused in an interview with AFP of trying to create a “crisis” in Egypt. According to a timetable, a referendum to vote on a new constitution within the next two months will be followed by parliamentary elections and presidential polls by the end of the summer.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/egypt-to-start-fuel-cuts-in-2014-pm-1.411342**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/egypt-to-start-fuel-cuts-in-2014-pm-1.411342)

**Egypt's president issues law regulating protests**

Egypt's interim president issued a new law Sunday regulating protests, weeks after the much-anticipated bill stirred serious criticism from rights and political groups that say it will undermine freedoms and stifle all opposition. Drafts of the bill have been widely debated since the military-backed government first floated it in October. Interim President Adly Mansour approved an amended version Sunday and it will be released later, presidential spokesman Ihab Badawi said. The law comes 10 days after authorities lifted a three-monthlong emergency order that granted security forces sweeping powers. Rights groups and political forces say the law is designed to restrict protests and will have a negative impact on rights and freedoms in Egypt. The bill as initially drafted required prior notice for protests and set high fines for violators. An amendment later reduced the period of notification to three days, banned spontaneous assemblies and kept high fines.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-official-muslim-brotherhood-backs-unrest-20990006**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-official-muslim-brotherhood-backs-unrest-20990006)

**Security forces seal off main squares ahead of pro-Morsi protests**

In response to a call made by supporters of ousted president Mohamed Morsi to demonstrate Sunday, security forces have sealed off Cairo and Giza’s main squares that had been spots for protests including Tahrir Square, downtown, Giza’s El-Nahda Square, Nasr City’s Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Mohandesen’s Mostafa Mahmoud Square. Traffic flow, as a result, has been affected. The 6 October Bridge, the 15 May Bridge and Qasr Al-Nil Bridge are jammed as cars have been redirected from the blocked squares, reported Al-Ahram Arabic website.

**FNA -** [**http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13920903001188**](http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13920903001188)

**Iraq**

**Sunnis close Iraqi capital mosques in protest**

Iraqi Sunni religious leaders said Saturday they closed the sect's mosques in Baghdad indefinitely to protest attacks targeting clerics and worshippers, highlighting the country's deepening sectarian rift. The closures came as violence across the country killed 12 people Saturday. Sheik Mustafa al-Bayati, a member of a council of senior Sunni scholars that issue religious edicts, said the decision taken Thursday came into effect Saturday. Many mosques appeared to comply. In Baghdad's Sunni northern district of Azamiya, a banner at the closed gate of the hallowed Abu Hanifa mosque read: "The mosque is closed until further notice because of the targeting of imams, preachers and worshippers." The mosque closures were "prompted by the systematic targeting of and injustice against Sunni clerics, mosques and worshippers," al-Bayati told The Associated Press. "Today, it is not forbidden to shed Sunni blood. … For 11 months we have been saying peacefully that we are facing injustice but the government closes its ears."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/uk-slave-suspects-indian-tanzanian-origin-police-143704476.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/uk-slave-suspects-indian-tanzanian-origin-police-143704476.html)

**Bombs kill 9 and wound 54 in northern Iraq**

A car bomb and a suicide bomber killed at least nine people and wounded 54 in northern Iraq on Saturday, police and medical sources said, in the latest of a wave of attacks in crowded public places. The bombings took place in the town of Tuz Khurmato, 170 km north of the capital Baghdad, in a region which both the central government and autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan claim as theirs. The first bomb detonated in a car in a busy market near a Shi'ite mosque after prayers and was quickly followed by a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest, the sources said. Iraqi authorities are struggling with the worst violence in at least five years and say Sunni Muslim insurgents linked to al Qaeda are to blame for most of the attacks, which have killed hundreds each month since the beginning of 2013.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131123155239-57d7x**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131123155239-57d7x)

**Libya**

**Former Gaddafi security agent shot dead in Libya**

Gunmen on Saturday shot dead a former member of Moamer Gaddafi's security services in eastern Libya, in the latest violence to hit the region, an official said. Unidentified men with assault rifles gunned down Fares Al-Zarruk in a busy street in the centre of Derna, a town that has been hit by mounting deadly unrest, the security official said. Zarruk died on the spot and his attackers fled, the official told AFP. Since last Saturday a judge, a tribal chief and two traffic policemen have been killed in Derna near Libya's second city Benghazi, the epicentre of the 2011 uprising that toppled Gaddafi's regime. Most of the violence is blamed on Islamists whose influence has grown since the revolt in which Qaddafi was also killed.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/87312/World/Region/Former-Gaddafi-security-agent-shot-dead-in-Libya.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/87312/World/Region/Former-Gaddafi-security-agent-shot-dead-in-Libya.aspx)

**Syria**

**Children 'targeted by snipers'**

More than 11,000 children have died in Syria's civil war in nearly three years, including hundreds targeted by snipers, a new report says. Summary executions and torture have also been used against children as young as one, the London-based Oxford Research Group think tank says. The report says the majority of children have been killed by bombs or shells in their own neighbourhoods. It wants fighters trained in how not to put civilians' lives at risk. Their report, Stolen Futures - the Hidden Toll of Child Casualties in Syria, examines data from the start of the conflict in March 2011 to August 2013. Of the 11,420 victims aged 17 and under, 389 were killed by sniper fire. Some 764 were summarily executed, and more than 100 - including infants - were tortured, the report says. Boys outnumbered girls among the dead by around two to one. Boys aged 13 to 17 were most likely to be victims of targeted killings, the report says.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25055956**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25055956)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia stumbles to democracy in a troubled neighbourhood**

Tunisia offers perhaps the last hope for Arab Spring democracy; only in the small nation that inspired revolts from Cairo to Tripoli has the negotiating table won out over the gun, so far. After months of crisis, Islamists and their secular opponents are bargaining over forming a caretaker government, a new constitution is a few penstrokes from completion and a second free election is around the corner. Tunisia's stumbling way towards democracy is far from secure. A fragile political balance could yet be upset by infighting, economic malaise or the threat of violent militants determined to stamp their fundamentalist view onto the Arab World's most secular nation.

**BBC -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131125134225-8q6kf/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131125134225-8q6kf/?source=hpbreaking)

**Yemen**

**'Qaeda attack' kills 3 police in south Yemen**

Suspected Al-Qaeda gunmen killed three policemen in an attack Sunday on a checkpoint at the entrance to the southern town of Seyoun, a Yemeni security official said. "Armed men, probably members of Al-Qaeda, opened fire on the checkpoint," killing three and wounding two others, the official said. The assailants managed to escape in a car. Al-Qaeda militants have stepped up attacks on security forces from strongholds in south and southeast Yemen.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/87361/World/Region/Qaeda-attack-kills--police-in-south-Yemen.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/87361/World/Region/Qaeda-attack-kills--police-in-south-Yemen.aspx)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan president rebuffs US troop deal deadline**

Afghanistan's president on Friday rebuffed American demands that he sign a security pact allowing US forces to stay in the country for another decade, while the US defense secretary warned that planning for a post-2014 military presence may be jeopardized if the deal isn't finalized by the end of the year. The stakes are high as Afghan tribal elders and other regional leaders met behind closed doors for a second day to debate the draft agreement seen as necessary to enable thousands of American soldiers to stay beyond a 2014 deadline primarily to train and mentor government security forces who are still struggling to face a resilient Taliban insurgency on their own. Karzai stunned the US when he urged delegates on Thursday's opening day of the consultative council known as the Loya Jirga to approve the security pact but said he will leave it to his successor to sign it after the April 5 elections.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/afghan-spokesman-rebuffs-us-troop-deal-deadline-181901205.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/afghan-spokesman-rebuffs-us-troop-deal-deadline-181901205.html)

**Adulterers may be stoned under new Afghan law, official says**

Death by stoning for convicted adulterers is being written into Afghan law, a senior official said on Monday, the latest sign that human rights won at great cost since the Taliban were ousted in 2001 are rolling back as foreign troops withdraw. "We are working on the draft of a sharia penal code where the punishment for adultery, if there are four eyewitnesses, is stoning," said Rohullah Qarizada, who is part of the sharia Islamic law committee working on the draft and head of the Afghan Independent Bar Association. Billions have been invested on promoting human rights in Afghanistan over more than 12 years of war and donors fear that hard won progress, particularly for women, may be eroding.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/25/uk-afghanistan-rights-idUKBRE9AO0EF20131125**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/25/uk-afghanistan-rights-idUKBRE9AO0EF20131125)

**India**

**After Helen, Andhra braces for super cyclone Lehar**

Even before it came to terms with the damage caused by cyclone Helen, Andhra Pradesh has to brace up for yet another severe cyclone - Lehar. Classed as a very severe cyclone, Lehar is expected to cross the Andhra coast between Machalipattanam and Kalingapattanam near Kakinada on November 28. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the deep depression over south Andaman Sea and neighbourhood moved northwestward, intensified into a cyclonic storm named Lehar. It lay centred at 5.30am on Sunday over 300km south-southeast of Port Blair. "The system would move northwestward and cross Andaman & Nicobar Islands between Hut Bay and Long Island, close to Port Blair on Sunday night. It would then emerge into southeast Bay of Bengal, intensify further gradually into a very severe cyclonic storm and to move west-northwestwards towards Andhra Pradesh coast," said an IMD communique.

**Times of India -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/After-Helen-Andhra-braces-for-super-cyclone-Lehar/articleshow/26315203.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/After-Helen-Andhra-braces-for-super-cyclone-Lehar/articleshow/26315203.cms)

**Nepal**

**Nepal's Oldest Party Leads 1st Election Results**

Nepal's oldest political party is leading a first set of results from last week's election ahead of two prominent communist parties, the country's election commission said Monday. The results showed that the Nepali Congress Party had won 105 of the 240 directly elected seats. Only one directly elected seat remains to be decided. The Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist) trails with 91 seats and the United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) has 25 seats. The Election Commission said counting of the second sets of ballots - where voters pick a political party - had also started. Those 335 seats will be divided among the 122 competing political parties according to the proportion of the total vote each gets. The election for Nepal's Constituent Assembly was held Nov. 19 and final results are expected by the end of the week. The Maoists, a party made up of former communist rebels, has withdrawn from the ballot counting after initial results showed them losing most of the seats.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nepals-oldest-party-leads-1st-election-results-20999580**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nepals-oldest-party-leads-1st-election-results-20999580)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistani Protesters Search for NATO Supply Trucks**

Demonstrators protesting US drone strikes roughed up drivers Sunday as they sought to stop trucks carrying NATO troop supplies and equipment from passing through northwest Pakistan. The rally came a day after a party led by politician and cricket star Imran Khan said it would prevent NATO supply trucks making their way to and from Afghanistan from travelling through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province until the US stops drone strikes. The US leads the NATO coalition of troops battling the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan. Close to 100 protesters on the outskirts of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, checked the documents of truck drivers headed toward Afghanistan as they passed through a toll booth. They shouted at the drivers, and pulled one man, Gul Zaman, out of his truck when he told them that he was carrying commercial goods to Afghanistan, not NATO supplies. Video of the incident was shown by Pakistan's GEO TV.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistani-drone-protesters-block-nato-supply-route-20989382**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistani-drone-protesters-block-nato-supply-route-20989382)

WCAR

**CAR**

**C. Africa rejects international genocide concern**

The foreign minister of the Central African Republic on Saturday rejected international warnings that his impoverished, strife-torn country could be headed for genocide. World alarm has grown over the violence wracking the mineral-rich country since a March coup, with the UN, the US and former colonial ruler France all recently cautioning the situation could degenerate into genocide. But Foreign Minister Leonie Banga Bothy told local radio that the statements were not helping the situation in the country and could have a perverse effect. "We can't speak of a genocide of an ethnic or social group," he said. "Such statements on an international level can lead people to believe there is an imminent danger and to arm themselves to prepare for this genocide. And that is not what we want. "The security situation is worrying in certain regions of our country and in several areas of the capital. But a lot of bold and positive measures have been taken.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jGISMjDy8MCeHA8zwbcGeppDIthg?docId=6c0f6851-ebbd-4405-8f17-3f127f47234d**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jGISMjDy8MCeHA8zwbcGeppDIthg?docId=6c0f6851-ebbd-4405-8f17-3f127f47234d)

**UNICEF urges support for ‘forgotten crisis’** - **UNICEF**

**UNICEF** is urging greater international attention to address the “forgotten crisis” in the Central African Republic (CAR) where the entire population of 4.6 million people has been affected by the ongoing crisis. “The CAR is a forgotten crisis at the global level,” Souleymane Diabate, **UNICEF** Representative in the country. “While the world is preoccupied with what is happening in Syria or the Philippines, the situation is very tragic.” Despite a “very fragile, volatile and unpredictable context”, the UN agency is holding immunization and back-to-school campaigns to increase the maternal and infant mortality rates in the country which ranks among the lowest in social indicators. **UNICEF** is also working with armed groups to release children conscripted into the army, Mr. Diabate and spokesperson Patrick McCormick said. As many as 6,000 children are estimated to be associated with the armed groups.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/html/realfile/story.asp?NewsID=46568&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1=#.UpMVEooo7cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/html/realfile/story.asp?NewsID=46568&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1=#.UpMVEooo7cs)

**Mali**

**Tuareg protesters prevent voting in northern Mali town**

Tuareg separatists in northeastern Mali prevented parliamentary elections from taking place in their town on Sunday, a Malian military source and the local separatist mayor told AFP. "No vote, we want independence," chanted the protesters, who destroyed ballot boxes in Talataye, 180 km east of the city of Gao, said the military source. Talataye mayor Mohamed Assaley said at least 2,000 people took part in the demonstration. That figure was not confirmed by the military source.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131124/tuareg-protesters-prevent-voting-northern-mali-town**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131124/tuareg-protesters-prevent-voting-northern-mali-town)

**Armed men, politician steal ballot boxes in north Mali: Officials**

Ballot boxes were stolen in north Mali's Timbuktu region on Sunday, including one by armed men and several by a politician, officials told AFP, in the first sign of disruption in parliamentary polls. "Gunmen took a ballot box in the town of Bajakary, 80 km from Goundam. I've sent people there to establish the facts," said Oumou Sall Seck, the mayor of the district capital of Goundam. "In Takoubao, another town about 15 km from Goundam, voter cards were confiscated," she added, without being able to give details. There was no immediate indication of who might have been behind the incidents, or whether they were connected.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/87364/World/International/Armed-men,-politician-steal-ballot-boxes-in-north-.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/87364/World/International/Armed-men,-politician-steal-ballot-boxes-in-north-.aspx)

**EU hails successful presidential election in Mali**

Mali's parliamentary polls have been "another success" following the peaceful election of the country's president in August, the EU observation mission said on Monday, calling for a big turnout if a second round is required. Mission chief Louis Michel paid tribute to "the success of the organisation of elections, particularly with regard to the logistical, material and human conditions that prevailed during voting operations". Sunday's polls marked Mali's first steps to recovery after it was plunged into chaos by a military coup in March last year, and finalised a process begun with the election of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August. But voters were prevented from taking part by Tuareg separatist protesters in a northeastern town of around 14,000 people, while there were demonstrations in the northern rebel stronghold of Kidal and reports of ballot box thefts elsewhere.

Michel said the election "took place peacefully, despite some small-scale incidents in the north which are not likely to jeopardise the integrity of the vote".

**AFP -** [**http://www.timesofoman.com/News/Article-26209.aspx**](http://www.timesofoman.com/News/Article-26209.aspx)

**Mauritania**

**Islamists poised to enter parliament as Mauritania goes to polls** Voters in Mauritania went to the polls in Saturday in legislative and local elections expected to bring a once-outlawed Islamist party into parliament for the first time. The legislative polls - the first since a 2008 army putsch - are being boycotted by most of the West African nation's opposition parties. They refuse to recognise the authority of President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who led the bloodless coup claiming the previous President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi was incapable of tackling the economic problems squeezing Mauritania's mostly poor inhabitants. Candidates allied to Abdel Aziz, who won a presidential election in 2009 and is now a key ally of the West in the fight against al Qaeda in the region, are tipped to secure a comfortable majority.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/sns-rt-mauritania-elections-20131123,0,7759717.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/sns-rt-mauritania-elections-20131123,0,7759717.story)

**Nigeria**

**Gunmen kill 12 in Nigerian Islamist stronghold**

Gunmen killed 12 people in a raid on a northeastern Nigerian village on Saturday, the police said, in a region where troops are battling an Islamist militant insurgency. The attack was in a part of Borno state regularly targeted by Boko Haram, an Islamist sect that has killed thousands in the last four years. "About 30 fully armed men in three Hilux vehicles and motorcycles stormed the Sandiya village and started chanting Allahu Akbar (God is greatest), before opening fire on the helpless," local resident Modu Judum told Reuters. State Commissioner of Police Tanko Lawal confirmed 12 people were killed in the attack, houses were set ablaze and vehicles were stolen. He did not say who the

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/us-nigeria-bokoharam-idUSBRE9AM0AT20131123**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/23/us-nigeria-bokoharam-idUSBRE9AM0AT20131123)