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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Sudan evacuates citizens from CAR and South Sudan**

Sudan decided to evacuate its nationals from the Central African Republic (CAR) on Sunday. Sudanese citizens in South Sudan’s Bentiu, the capital of Unity State, have also been transferred. Abdelaziz Mohamed Saleh, director of the Consulates Department at the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared in a press statement that two flights by a private jet will airlift about 275 Sudanese citizens from CAR, owing to the ongoing violent conflicts there.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/62925**](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/62925)

**Separated from your family in a natural disaster? There's an app for that – UNICEF mention**

Imagine a flood strikes, filling your house with water and washing you away from your children; or waking up alone in hospital after an earthquake has hit your home; or getting separated from your loved ones after the panic caused by an airstrike. Electricity is affected, the phone lines are down. How do you raise the alarm? UNICEF has a solution: Rapid-fire (rapid family tracing and reunification). The brainchild of a New York student, RapidFTR is an open-source app designed to reunite children with their families in rapidly developing disaster situations. Using android phones and laptops, the app enables humanitarian workers to register information about missing children, which is then uploaded to a database accessible by those responsible for child protection.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/dec/27/rapidftr-disaster-situation-app-reuniting-families**](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/dec/27/rapidftr-disaster-situation-app-reuniting-families)

**Djibouti to send more troops to Somalia**

Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh says his country will send more troops to violence-ridden Somalia within the next three weeks. Guelleh told VOA's Somali service his country will deploy one more battalion to boost its troop presence in central Somalia. He said operations will soon begin to liberate the town of Bulobarde in central Somalia, where the al-Qaida-linked group al-Shabab has carried out many attacks. Djibouti is one of the countries that contributes troops to the African Union-led peacekeeping force in Somalia, which has endured more than two decades of chaos and conflict. Bulobarde is about 200 kilometers north of the capital, Mogadishu, where al-Shabab militants periodically carry out bombings.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201312290002.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201312290002.html)

CEE/CIS

**Russia**

**2 suicide bombings hit Russian city, 31 dead**

Two suicide bombings within 24 hours killed at least 31 people in a southern Russia city, highlighting the terror threat Russia faces as it prepares to host the Winter Games in six weeks. Suicide bombings have rocked Russia for years, but many have been contained to the North Caucasus, the center of an insurgency seeking an Islamist state in the region. Until recently, Volgograd was not a typical target, but the city formerly known as Stalingrad has been struck twice in two months — suggesting militants may be using the transportation hub as a renewed way of showing their reach outside their restive region.

**AP -** [**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/12/30/bombing-russia-volgograd/4246379/**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/12/30/bombing-russia-volgograd/4246379/)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine's pro-EU forces rally after brutal beating**

Ukraine's opposition planned another mass rally Sunday amid swelling anger over the brutal beating of a pro-European reporter who exposed the lavish lifestyles of President Viktor Yanukovych and his ruling elite. The angry crowd also hospital images of Chornovol's bloodied and swollen face have added fuel to the fire of weekly pro planned to drive dozens of cars toward Yanukovych's heavily guarded Mezhygirya residence on the banks of the Dnipro River that journalist Tetyana Chornovol accused the Ukrainian leader of illegally "privatising" in one of her exposes.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iPl9ABq7\_jtOdwYSCqKLKhpCz6FA?docId=c3cade7d-6e77-4a24-b0e8-2a11edab9718**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iPl9ABq7_jtOdwYSCqKLKhpCz6FA?docId=c3cade7d-6e77-4a24-b0e8-2a11edab9718)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Thousands of Cambodians rally to demand PM steps down**

Tens of thousands of Cambodian opposition supporters, backed by striking garment-factory workers, rallied on Sunday to demand long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen step down and call an election.

The garment workers have in recent days joined the opposition protests to press their demand that the government raise the minimum wage to $160 a month from $95, as recommended on Dec. 24.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131229101956-razon/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131229101956-razon/?source=hpbreaking)

**China**

**China eases one-child policy, abolishes labour camps**

China's top legislative committee formally approved a loosening of the country's hugely controversial one-child policy on Saturday and abolished re-education through labour camps, state media reported.

The widening of existing exceptions to the one-child policy will allow couples where either parent has no siblings to have two children, reforming the strict family planning policy imposed more than three decades ago to prevent overpopulation in the world's most populous nation. The abolition of re-education through labour, known as laojiao, will see existing inmates freed, Xinhua said. Their remaining terms will not be enforced any more, it quoted the NPC resolution as saying.

**AFP -** [**http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1391659/china-formally-abolishes-re-education-labour-camps-eases-one-child-policy**](http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1391659/china-formally-abolishes-re-education-labour-camps-eases-one-child-policy)

**Eight police station 'attackers' shot dead in China's Xinjiang**

Eight "attackers" armed with knives and explosives were shot dead Monday during an assault on a police station in the restive Chinese region of Xinjiang, authorities said. One of the attackers was held in the incident in Shache county, according to the official website of the government of Xinjiang, where mainly Muslim Uighurs are the largest ethnic group. The website made no mention of any police casualties and said officials were conducting an investigation. The area is known as Yarkand in the Uighur language. Authorities say that "terrorists" have been responsible for similar attacks this year in the sprawling and resource-rich region.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/eight-police-station-39-attackers-39-shot-dead-044708271.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/eight-police-station-39-attackers-39-shot-dead-044708271.html)

**Bird flu subtype re-emerges in Hong Kong: official**

An elderly man has contracted a mild form of bird flu in the first case of its type for four years, Hong Kong officials said on Monday. Since 1999 Hong Kong has reported seven such cases with the last one reported in 2009, Leung said. The man, who lives in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen bordering Hong Kong, was diagnosed with the disease after returning to Hong Kong on Saturday. He is now in stable condition in an isolation ward.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Health/2013/Dec-30/242661-bird-flu-subtype-re-emerges-in-hong-kong-official.ashx#axzz2oxafuPBD**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Health/2013/Dec-30/242661-bird-flu-subtype-re-emerges-in-hong-kong-official.ashx#axzz2oxafuPBD)

**Indonesia**

**Nearly 18,000 displaced by floods in North Sumatra, Indonesia**

Floods caused by torrential rains have forced 17,648 people to flee home and take shelters in Tebing Tinggi city in North Sumatra, Indonesia, head of the city's disaster agency told Xinhua over phone on Monday.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/30/c\_133007576.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/30/c_133007576.htm)

**Myanmar**

**Suu Kyi's party to contest 2015 Myanmar elections**

Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party says it will contest 2015 elections even if the country's constitution barring her from running for president is not amended. Suu Kyi has said the elections cannot be fair unless the constitution is changed, and many were expecting her National League for Democracy to boycott the polls if the document was not amended. But following a party meeting Saturday, NLD spokesman Nyan Win said the party would contest the polls even if the constitution is not changed.

**AP –** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/suu-kyis-party-to-contest-2015-burma-elections/2013/12/28/db531e4e-6fe7-11e3-a523-fe73f0ff6b8d\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/suu-kyis-party-to-contest-2015-burma-elections/2013/12/28/db531e4e-6fe7-11e3-a523-fe73f0ff6b8d_story.html)

**Philippines**

**Hundreds of corpses unburied after Philippine typhoon**

More than a thousand dead victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan lay unburied Saturday, seven weeks after the region was battered by the Philippines’ deadliest storm, residents living alongside the stench said.

About 1,400 corpses, in sealed black body bags swarming with flies, lay on a muddy open field in San Isidro, a farming village on the outskirts of the destroyed central city of Tacloban, an AFP reporter saw.

“The stench has taken away our appetite. Even in our sleep, we have to wear face masks,” said local housewife Maritess Pedrosa, who lives in a house about 20 metres from the roadside city government property.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/hundreds-of-corpses-unburied-after-philippine-typhoon-1.448613**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/hundreds-of-corpses-unburied-after-philippine-typhoon-1.448613)

**ABS -** [**http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/12/29/13/yolanda-death-toll-clims-6155**](http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/12/29/13/yolanda-death-toll-clims-6155)

ESAR

**Madagascar**

**Rajoelina candidate leads Madagascar vote**

The candidate supported by Madagascar strongman Andry Rajoelina held a decisive lead in the island's run-off presidential poll on Monday with ballots from nearly all voting stations in, results showed. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, aged 55, had won 53% of the vote after more than 96% of 20 001 voting stations had been tallied, according to figures on the electoral commission's website which are still to be validated. His rival Robinson Jean Louis, aged 61, the candidate of former leader Marc Ravalomanana who was ousted by Rajoelina in a 2009 coup, was trailing by 6.6%. A total of 19 291 polling stations have been counted so far. Both candidates had already declared themselves the winner, claiming vote rigging.

**AFP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Rajoelina-candidate-leads-Madagascar-vote-20131230**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Rajoelina-candidate-leads-Madagascar-vote-20131230)

**South Sudan**

**South Sudan rebels threaten key town: Army**

Rebels in violence-wracked South Sudan sought to take back control Monday of a key town they were forced from last week, the army said, vowing to defeat the militia. United Nations peacekeepers said they were concerned over claims some 25,000 armed youths from the Nuer tribe -- allied to ex-vice president Riek Machar -- were readying to attack Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, amid international efforts to broker a ceasefire. "The forces of Riek Machar are now advancing on Bor, but we are confident we will hold them off and protect the town," army spokesman Philip Aguer told AFP. "Yesterday there were heavy clashes at Gadiang north of Bor... the people in Bor are fearing an attack at any time." Rebels were currently reported around 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Bor.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/90364/World/Region/South-Sudan-rebels-threaten-key-town-Army.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/90364/World/Region/South-Sudan-rebels-threaten-key-town-Army.aspx)

**Africa Review -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/South-Sudan-Thousands-of-pro-rebel-youths-march-on-Bor/-/979180/2128206/-/botste/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/South-Sudan-Thousands-of-pro-rebel-youths-march-on-Bor/-/979180/2128206/-/botste/-/index.html)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Six Colombian FARC rebels surrender to Ecuadorian police**

Six alleged Colombian guerrillas, including two women, one of whom is pregnant, surrendered to Ecuadorian police in a town bordering Colombia, Ecuadorian media reported Sunday. The rebels, who claimed to be members of the FARC's Daniel Aldana faction,told authorities that they had fled after receiving threats from their commanders, according to the reports. The rebels also handed in their firearms, including an HK-G3 assault rifle, and backpacks with camouflage uniforms.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/30/c\_125929855.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/30/c_125929855.htm)

**El Salvador**

**El Salvador's Chaparrastique Volcano erupts**

El Salvador's Chaparrastique Volcano erupted early Sunday, spewing a tall column of ash and smoke into the sky. The 2,130-meter-high volcano, located in the Central American country's department of San Miguel, is one of the eight active volcanoes in the country. The eruption generated a large kilometer-high mushroom cloud that can be seen from as far as capital San Salvador, more than 138 kilometers away. The department of vulcanology at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) reported some local seismic activity accompanied the eruption. The Civil Protection Agency, meanwhile, began the evacuation of residents living within a 3-kilometer radius of the site, due to falling volcanic ash. Jorge Melendez, director of the agency, said a yellow alert had been issued for the area, as winds were blowing the ash towards the coast.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/30/c\_125929860.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/30/c_125929860.htm)

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/12/el-salvador-most-active-volcano-erupts-20131229204248841733.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/12/el-salvador-most-active-volcano-erupts-20131229204248841733.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israeli military returns fire after rocket attack from Lebanon, no injuries reported**

Rockets from Lebanon struck northern Israel on Sunday, causing no injuries but sparking an Israeli shelling reprisal in a rare flare-up between the two countries. Shortly after, the Israeli military said it responded with artillery fired toward the source of the launch. Lebanon's state news agency said the border area was shelled after the rockets hit Israel. The agency said over 20 shells hit the mountainous region around the southern Lebanese border area of Rachaya.

**AP -**

[**http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Israeli+police+rockets+fired+from+Lebanon+land+north+injuries/9331751/story.html**](http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Israeli+police+rockets+fired+from+Lebanon+land+north+injuries/9331751/story.html)

**Israeli tanks wound 2 Palestinians in Gaza: medics**

Two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were wounded Sunday by Israeli tank fire, medical sources said, less than a week after cross-border violence peaked with deaths on both sides. Ashraf al-Qudra, a spokesman for the emergency services in the Islamist Hamas-run enclave, told AFP two men were in "moderate condition" after being hit by tank fire "in an open area" east of Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza. A spokesman for the Israeli army told AFP they were not familiar with such an incident. Exchanges of fire between the sides peaked last Tuesday when a sniper inside Gaza killed an Israeli fixing the border fence. Israel retaliated against "terror sites" in Gaza with warplanes and tanks, killing a toddler and wounding at least six people. Two rockets from the Palestinian enclave hit Israel on Thursday, causing no damage. Israeli warplanes that night wounded two Gazans in sorties targeting military installations.

**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israeli-tanks-wound-2-palestinians-gaza-medics**](http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israeli-tanks-wound-2-palestinians-gaza-medics)

**Egypt**

**Blast at Egyptian army building wounds four soldiers**

A bomb exploded outside an Egyptian army building north of Cairo on Sunday, wounding four soldiers, the army said, in the second bomb attack on security forces in the Nile Delta in less than a week. The bomb partly destroyed the back wall of the military intelligence building in the village of Anshas, 100 km (60 miles) north of the capital. The army described the bombing as a terrorist attack. Its statement referred to "groups of darkness" and did not name the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group it declared a terrorist organization last week.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/bomb-hits-egypt-intelligence-building-wounds-4-101109258.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/bomb-hits-egypt-intelligence-building-wounds-4-101109258.html)

**Al Jazeera says 3 journalists held in Egypt after hotel broadcast**

Al Jazeera said Egyptian security forces arrested three of its journalists after the interior ministry accused the Qatar-based television channel of broadcasting illegally from a hotel suite together with a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. Al Jazeera's offices in Cairo have been closed since July 3 when they were raided by security forces hours after the army ousted the Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi from the presidency.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/30/us-egypt-jazeera-idUSBRE9BT05E20131230**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/30/us-egypt-jazeera-idUSBRE9BT05E20131230)

**Presidential election can come first: Egypt Leader**

Egypt's interim president says a presidential election can come before a planned parliamentarypoll in the country without violating a military-backed road map following the July 3 coup. It was the first official signal that Egypt may amend the transition plan adopted in the wake of the popularly backed coup that toppled Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. Backers of the road map have pushed for electing a president first amid continued opposition from Morsi supporters to the current government. Interim President Adly Mansour had set the timetable in July, calling for a referendum on constitutional amendments first, then parliamentary elections within two months before a vote for the president.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-leader-presidential-election-come-first-172604422.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-leader-presidential-election-come-first-172604422.html)

**Iraq**

**Iraq forces under fire over abuse as unrest surges**

Iraq’s security forces face a rising chorus of criticism that, with violence at the highest level in years, their heavy-handed tactics and alleged abuses do more harm than good. Human rights groups, analysts, diplomats and lawmakers have become increasingly vocal over a litany of alleged abuses including mass arrests, prolonged periods of detention without trial, the closure of some neighborhoods, and detainee abuse. They say that, far from reining in Iraq’s worst violence since 2008, the tactics are radicalizing moderate Sunnis and distancing them from a government that the minority community alleges disproportionately targets them. **AFP -** [**http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/international/iraq-forces-under-fire-over-abuse-as-unrest-surges/**](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/international/iraq-forces-under-fire-over-abuse-as-unrest-surges/)

**Police start removing Sunni protest camp, clashes erupt**

Police moved to dismantle a Sunni protest camp in Iraq's western Anbar province on Monday after tribal leaders and local government and defence ministry officials reached a deal, officials said. Thousands of Sunnis have taken to the streets in the region to protest what they see as marginalisation of their minority sect since December 2012. Defence Ministry spokesman Lieutenant-General Mohammed al-Askari told state television the camp would be removed by police and claimed that al Qaeda-linked leaders had been sheltering in the camp. Some police sources and local officials in Ramadi said tents were still standing in the camp although police and army forces had surrounded the area.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131230113136-f75tm**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131230113136-f75tm)

**Lebanon**

**Ex-minister buried to anti-Hezbollah chants**

Mourners chanting anti-Hezbollah slogans laid to rest former Lebanese minister Mohamad Chatah on Sunday after he was killed by a car bomb his allies blame on the Shi'ite group. Friday's attack on Chatah, a Sunni who was a vocal critic of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his Lebanese ally Hezbollah, has once again stoked sectarian enmities exacerbated by the spillover of Syria's conflict. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing which killed Chatah and six others. It was the latest in a series of attacks on both sides of the divide in Lebanon, where the government is paralyzed by a standoff along sectarian lines.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-lebanese-ex-minister-buried-to-anti-hezbollah-chants/1819595.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-lebanese-ex-minister-buried-to-anti-hezbollah-chants/1819595.html)

**Libya**

**Libyan oil guards threaten to block gas pipeline to Tripoli**

Oil security guards in central Libya have threatened to block a gas pipeline to the capital Tripoli unless the government meets their salary demands, oil sources and local media said on Sunday. If confirmed, the protest would mark an escalation of a wave of strikes at oilfields and export terminals gripping Libya, reducing its lifeline oil exports to a trickle. The OPEC producer is facing turmoil as the government of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan struggles to control heavily-armed militias who helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 but kept their weapons to press for political and financial demands.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-oil-guards-threaten-block-gas-pipeline-tripoli-005741601.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-oil-guards-threaten-block-gas-pipeline-tripoli-005741601.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Gaza power plant back online as fuel supply resumes**

The Gaza Strip’s only power plant returned to life after Israel resumed fuel deliveries on Sunday, a Palestinian official said, two days after a lack of supplies halted electricity production. The power plant stopped working on Friday due to the closure of the border crossing where goods transit between Israel and the besieged Palestinian enclave. The Israeli decision to close the crossing came after a Palestinian sniper shot dead an Israeli man working near the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

**AFP -** [**http://jordantimes.com/gaza-power-plant-back-online-as-fuel-supply-resumes**](http://jordantimes.com/gaza-power-plant-back-online-as-fuel-supply-resumes)

**Sudan**

**UN peacekeepers killed in Darfur ambush**

Two peacekeepers have been killed in an ambush in Sudan’s Darfur troubled region, the United Nations said on Sunday. The two soldiers were killed by unidentified gunmen in Gerida area in south Darfur state, UNAMID said in a press release. "The UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon has strongly condemned the 'cowardly' attack and called on the Sudanese authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice," the statement said. The UN said that 14 peacekeepers have been killed in Darfur in the last six months.

**Africa Review -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/UN-peacekeepers-killed-in-Darfur-ambush/-/979180/2128930/-/16m8e2/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/UN-peacekeepers-killed-in-Darfur-ambush/-/979180/2128930/-/16m8e2/-/index.html)

**Syria**

**UN seeks access to Palestinians in Syria after 15 die of hunger**

The UN appealed on Monday for the Syrian army and rebel fighters to allow urgent aid to reach a Palestinian district of southern Damascus where it said 15 people have died of malnutrition in recent months. UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness said five Palestinian refugees died in the Yarmouk district over the weekend. Ten others have died since September, the last time the U.N. was able to deliver aid to Yarmouk. "The situation has progressively deteriorated for some 20,000 Palestinians trapped inside Yarmouk," he told Reuters. "The continued presence of armed groups that entered the area at the end of 2012 and its closure by government forces have thwarted all our humanitarian efforts."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/30/us-syria-crisis-palestinians-idUSBRE9BT0DD20131230**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/30/us-syria-crisis-palestinians-idUSBRE9BT0DD20131230)

**Tunsia**

**Tunisian police arrest Islamists threatening New Year celebrations**

Tunisian police arrested seven Salafists in the western town of Kasserine on Sunday, local radio reported, as authorities feared radical Islamists may be planning attacks during New Year celebrations. Kasserine is the closest town to the remote area of Mount Chambi, stormed earlier this year by the army and police to try and track down more than 30 suspected al Qaeda-linked militants. It is near the Algerian border. Tunisian authorities have stepped up checks in the region, fearing militant Islamists may be planning attacks during New Year celebrations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-tunisia-terrorism-threat-20131230,0,719895.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-tunisia-terrorism-threat-20131230,0,719895.story)

**Yemen**

**Yemen jails nine al Qaeda members for plot to kill president**

A Yemeni court jailed nine al Qaeda members for between two and 10 years on Sunday for plotting to assassinate President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the country's news agency Saba reported. The prosecution said the group, which was also convicted of planning to kill military officers and kidnap foreigners, planted an explosive device this year on a road used by Hadi on his way to the presidential palace.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131229162148-srsop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131229162148-srsop)

**Tribesmen blow up pipeline in south**

Yemeni tribesmen blew up a pipeline in the eastern Hadramout province on Saturday, disrupting oil flow two days after they seized an Oil Ministry building in the region, a local government official said. Tribal sources said on Thursday that the Oil Ministry attack was in response to the killing of a tribal leader this month at an army checkpoint after his bodyguards refused to hand over their weapons to soldiers. The pipeline attacked transports crude oil from Massila oil field in Hadramout to the port of Mukkala. This was the first time the pipeline has been hit.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/28/us-yemen-violence-pipeline-idUSBRE9BR02Z20131228**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/28/us-yemen-violence-pipeline-idUSBRE9BR02Z20131228)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**British army head warns Taliban could retake key territory in south**

A senior British Army Officer has warned that the vital territories in Afghanistan could be retaken as British forces are preparing withdraw next year. General Sir Peter Wall, Chief of the General Staff of British Army has said that key Afghan towns in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan like Musala risks being lost to Taliban. Gen. Peter Wall further added that insurgents are seeking to regain lost territory, where British forces have suffered heavy casualties during the early phase of military operations. While speaking during an interview with The Telegraph, Gen.

**KP -** [**http://www.khaama.com/british-army-head-warns-taliban-could-retake-key-territory-in-south-2644**](http://www.khaama.com/british-army-head-warns-taliban-could-retake-key-territory-in-south-2644)

**Bangladesh**

**Fresh political violence grips Bangladesh; 1 dead**

Security forces and opposition activists clashed in Bangladesh’s capital on Sunday, leaving at least one person dead, as thousands of police took to the streets to foil a mass rally calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to cancel upcoming elections. Hasina’s rival, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, was expected to address the rally later Sunday in defiance of a government ban on large political gatherings. Reports said authorities had detained hundreds of people in a crackdown ahead of next weekend’s elections, further deepening the nation’s political crisis.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/12/29/police-deploy-bangladesh-for-opposition-rally/47PhLhDq2S2xbZONwTX1vN/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/12/29/police-deploy-bangladesh-for-opposition-rally/47PhLhDq2S2xbZONwTX1vN/story.html)

**Pakistan**

**Gunmen kill vaccinator in NW Pakistan**

Gunmen shot dead a health officer supervising an anti-polio vaccination campaign after storming a hospital where children were being immunised in Pakistan's troubled northwest Saturday, officials said. Two other hospital staff were injured in the attack at a government-run hospital in the town of Mattani, on the outskirts of Peshawar. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the killing.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hWziuocMuV2jjEaH1XzX4e38xR8Q?docId=14fedbeb-756c-4f3d-9a67-d4807e3aea1c**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hWziuocMuV2jjEaH1XzX4e38xR8Q?docId=14fedbeb-756c-4f3d-9a67-d4807e3aea1c)

**Polio threat: Five new cases surface in FATA, attacks continue**

A total of five new cases of polio surfaced in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) on Saturday. A health department official confirmed the number of cases and said four of the cases were reported from North Waziristan Agency and one from South Waziristan Agency. The infected children from North Waziristan were identified as 10-month-old Israr, 18-month-old Dilshad, 18-month-old Nabila and 24-month-old Shahidullah. In South Waziristan, 12-month-old Kainat Bibi was infected with the virus.

The health official said anti-polio vaccine was not administered to these children.

**Tribune -** [**http://tribune.com.pk/story/652183/polio-threat-five-new-cases-surface-in-fata/**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/652183/polio-threat-five-new-cases-surface-in-fata/)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Thousands flood camp in Central African Republic**

More than 100,000 people displaced by violence in Central African Republic are sheltering at a makeshift camp at Bangui airport, MSF said. Attacks by Muslim Seleka rebels, who seized power in March, and Christian militias have killed more than 1,000 people and displaced an estimated 400,000 in Bangui this month. MSF said the airport camp, which stretches for kilometres beside the runway, lacked proper sanitation as well as supplies of food and water as UN agencies have failed to keep pace with the scale of the problem. "If nothing is done in the next two weeks there is a risk of an epidemic breaking out," said Lindis Hurum, MSF coordinator at the airport camp.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131229150742-5njgf/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131229150742-5njgf/?source=hptop)

**DR Congo**

**Gunmen attack state TV, airport**

Gunmen attacked the airport and seized control of the state television headquarters in Kinshasa on Monday in what appeared to be an attempt to seize power by supporters of religious leader Paul Joseph Mukungubila. Police put a security cordon around the state television building where gunmen had taken several people hostage, journalists told Reuters. Witnesses also reported shooting at the Tshatshi military camp, close to the Defense Ministry. Before transmission was shut down at state television, two gunmen appeared on camera to deliver what appeared to be a political message against President Joseph Kabila, who took office in 2001 after the assassination of his father Laurent. "Gideon Mukungubila has come to free you from the slavery of the Rwandan," said the message, according to a Reuters reporter who saw a tape of the transmission. Gideon is the nickname used for Mukungubila by his followers.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/30/us-congo-democratic-idUSBRE9BT05I20131230**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/30/us-congo-democratic-idUSBRE9BT05I20131230)

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131230-armed-youths-take-journalists-hostage-dr-congo/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131230-armed-youths-take-journalists-hostage-dr-congo/)

**Congolese army regains control of state TV, airport - govt spokesman**

Congolese government troops have regained control of the state television headquarters, army headquarters and the international airport in the capital Kinshasa after an attack by some 70 gunmen, government spokesman Lambert Mende said. "We have total control of the situation," he told Reuters, adding that 40 of the attackers had been killed by the security forces.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131230110503-aw4oi**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131230110503-aw4oi)

**Forty die in DR Congo capital as security forces fight armed men**

Heavy gunfire has erupted in several parts of Kinshasa, where the government said 40 assailants were killed by security forces. The shooting erupted at the international airport and a military headquarters, causing panic among residents, while police said armed youths had taken hostage several reporters from the state television station RTNC. Government spokesman Lambert Mende told AFP that 16 of the attackers had been killed at the airport, 16 at the general staff headquarters and eight more at the RTNC premises. "No civilian casualties have been reported and no victims in the security forces," Mr Mende said.

[**http://www.news.com.au/world/forty-die-in-dr-congo-capital-as-security-forces-fight-armed-men/story-fndir2ev-1226792220796**](http://www.news.com.au/world/forty-die-in-dr-congo-capital-as-security-forces-fight-armed-men/story-fndir2ev-1226792220796)

**Congo army clashes with Mukungubila's followers in Lubumbashi**

Congo's army clashed on Monday with followers of religious leader Paul Joseph Mukungubila in the eastern mining city of Lubumbashi, an official in the governor's office said, hours after his supporters attacked targets in the capital. Witnesses said the clashes erupted after government troops attacked Mukungubila's church in the centre of Lubumbashi, in Congo's copper-rich Katanga province. Gunmen saying they were supporters of Mukungubila had briefly seized control of state television headquarters in Kinshasa earlier on Monday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131230114007-e6lh4**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131230114007-e6lh4)

**Mali**

**Mali ex-president in high treason probe**

Mali has announced plans to investigate former President Amadou Toumani Toure for high treason. The office of Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly said in a televised statement it had presented the case to Mali's highest court. The government accuses Mr Toure of failing in his duty as commander of the armed forces when Islamist militants attacked the country's north last year. Mr Toure was ousted in a military coup in April 2012 and fled to Senegal. The coup plunged Mali into chaos, allowing an alliance of ethnic Tuareg separatists and Islamist to take over the whole northern desert region. Earlier this year, the al-Qaeda-linked insurgents were ousted from the major towns with the help of France and West African troops.

**BBC -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/Mali-ex-president-in-high-treason-probe/-/979180/2127340/-/y1911b/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/Mali-ex-president-in-high-treason-probe/-/979180/2127340/-/y1911b/-/index.html)

**Niger**

**Tens of thousands protest against Niger government**

Tens of thousands of opposition supporters staged a protest rally on Saturday against what they said was the failure of President Mahamadou Issoufou to improve living standards in Niger. The rally, in the capital Niamey, was the largest in Niger since pro-democracy protests against then-President Mamadou Tandja that helped to block his bid to serve a third term and ushered in a military coup that toppled him in February 2010. It was the first public show of strength by the Alliance for the Republic, Democracy and Reconciliation in Niger (ARDR), a coalition of 15 opposition parties formed in October. Last month, a court lifted a government ban on opposition marches. Police said some 20,000 people took part in Saturday's rally, while organizers put the figure at 30,000.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/28/us-niger-protest-idUSBRE9BR07T20131228**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/28/us-niger-protest-idUSBRE9BR07T20131228)

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