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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UN agency reports highest number of refugees in 19 years**

The UNHCR said on Wednesday that 2013 will witness the highest number of refugees worldwide since 1994, and that the bulk of the asylum- seekers are hosted by developing countries. Antonio Guterres, with UNHCR, made the remarks when he was briefing the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee of the UN General Assembly on the current situation of refugees worldwide. "Refugees are crossing borders at the highest rate in nearly two decades," he said. "By the end of 2013, some two million people across the world will have been forced to flee their country -- the highest number in any year since the Rwandan genocide of 1994." The past three years have been marked by a quick succession of large-scale displacement emergencies, from Libya and Cote d'Ivoire to Somalia and Mali, he said. "Millions more were displaced inside their own country."

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132865550.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132865550.htm)

**DR Congo/Uganda**

**1,700 M23 rebels surrender to Uganda: Official**

At least 1,700 Congolese M23 rebels, including the top commander, have surrendered to Ugandan authorities following their defeat by Congolese troops, a Ugandan military official said Thursday. Gen. Sultani Makenga, M23's military commander, and his fighters were being held by the Ugandan military in Mgahinga, a forested area near the Congo border, the official said. The rebels had been disarmed and were being registered by Ugandan officials, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give this information. Makenga, the M23 commander, is the subject of UN sanctions, and it remained unclear what Ugandan officials would do with him.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/congo-rebels-end-fight-challenges-remain-20805826**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/congo-rebels-end-fight-challenges-remain-20805826)

**South Sudan/Sudan**

**Abyei community accuses AU of ignorance over area’s status**

Leaders from various groups in the oil-contested region of Abyei, whose territorial ownership remains one of the most contentious issues between Sudan and South Sudan, have accused the AU of exhibiting ignorance about the status of the area. The community was reportedly "outraged" over a remark attributed to the leader of a visiting AU delegation, who was quoted as saying the dispute over the area remains to be decided by the president of South Sudan and his Sudanese counterpart.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48707**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48707)

**African Union team flees hostile Abyei mob**

A team of the African union visiting Abyei on Tuesday faced hostility from a crowd of the Ngok Dinka community, forcing it to flee to Kadugli, the capital of neighbouring South Kordofan northern state. The delegation was in the disputed Abyei region to ease tension after Ngok Dinka community conducted a unilateral referendum last week where an overwhelming 99.9 per cent of the Dinka Ng'ok voted to join South Sudan. The Misseriya community described the referendum result as a declaration of war. The wrangle over Abyei is one of the main unresolved disputes following the 2005 peace agreement between Sudan and South Sudan, which ended a civil war and led to the independence of South Sudan.

**Africa Review -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/African-Union-team-flees-hostile-Abyei-mob/-/979180/2063150/-/mbepts/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/African-Union-team-flees-hostile-Abyei-mob/-/979180/2063150/-/mbepts/-/index.html)

CEE/CIS

**Tajikistan**

**Tajik leader Rakhmon wins new seven-year term by landslide**

Tajikistan's President Imomali Rakhmon, whose only serious opposition rival was disqualified, has won a new seven-year term by a landslide, the country's Central Election Commission (CEC) said on Thursday. Rakhmon, at the helm of the poorest post-Soviet nation since 1992, received 83.1 percent of the vote after all ballots were counted, CEC Chairman Shermukhammad Shokhiyon told a news briefing. Turnout at the election was 86.6 percent, he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/uk-tajikistan-election-idUKBRE9A605420131107**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/uk-tajikistan-election-idUKBRE9A605420131107)

**Turkey**

**Turkey reopens border gate with Syria**

Turkey on Wednesday reopened the Oncupinar border gate with Syria in the southern province of Kilis after seven weeks' closure due to security concerns, a Turkish official said. The border gate had been closed since Sept. 19, when clashes erupted in Syria's Azez, and only opened for convoys of humanitarian aids, Kilis Governor Suleyman Tapsiz was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anadolu Agency. He said the gate is now open to all and the Esseleme border gate has also been opened by Syria. Turkey, once an ally of Damascus but now a leading force against it, has purportedly provided Syrian rebel leaders with sanctuary.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132865437.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132865437.htm)

**Turkey seizes 1,200 warheads near Syria border: agency**

Turkey seized a truck loaded with 1,200 rocket warheads and other weapons near the border with Syria on Thursday and detained nine people, the private Dogan news agency reported. The truck, which was also carrying bazookas, explosives and guns, was seized in Turkey's southern province of Adana, Dogan quoted provincial governor Huseyin Avni Cos as saying.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/us-syria-crisis-turkey-border-idUSBRE9A60LI20131107**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/us-syria-crisis-turkey-border-idUSBRE9A60LI20131107)

EAPR

**DPR Korea**

**North Korea says it has arrested South Korean spy: KCNA**

North Korea said on Thursday it had arrested a South Korean spy and was investigating him on charges of espionage in a rare report of the capture of a secret agent by either of the rivals. The man was arrested in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, and had confessed to entering the country illegally, the North's Ministry of State Security said in comments carried by the North's official KCNA news agency.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/us-korea-north-spy-idUSBRE9A60JX20131107**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/us-korea-north-spy-idUSBRE9A60JX20131107)

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar’s ethnic armies present ceasefire draft**

Eighteen of Myanmar's ethnic armed groups recently gathered in the rebel-controlled Kachin capital of Laiza to draft guidelines for government negotiations, and to strengthen their collective position on what would become the country’s first national ceasefire agreement. “All the groups have agreed to go to the nationwide ceasefire proposed by the government together. Without agreement of all of the ethnic [armed] organizations then we will not be successful,” Kachin Independence Army’s (KIA) Gun Maw - a “general” - told IRIN following the groups’ recent gathering in the rebel-controlled Kachin State capital of Laiza. Eighteen groups agreed to sign on the understanding that political dialogue will begin within a few months of inking the landmark deal.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99065/myanmar-s-ethnic-armies-present-ceasefire-draft**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99065/myanmar-s-ethnic-armies-present-ceasefire-draft)

**Philippines**

**World's strongest typhoon swirls towards Philippines**

The world’s most powerful typhoon this year gained strength on Thursday as it swirled towards the Philippines, forcing mass evacuations across a vast swathe of the disaster-weary nation.

Authorities warned more than 12 million people were at risk from Typhoon Haiyan, which was generating wind gusts exceeding 330 km an hour and set to hit on Friday morning.

“This is a very dangerous typhoon, local officials know where the vulnerable areas are and have given instructions on evacuations,” state weather forecaster Glaiza Escullar told AFP. “There are not too many mountains on its path to deflect the force of impact, making it more dangerous.” Haiyan was expected make landfall on Samar island, about 600 km southeast of Manila, then cut across the central and southern Philippines before exiting into the South China Sea late on Saturday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/world-s-strongest-typhoon-swirls-towards-philippines-1.394466**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/world-s-strongest-typhoon-swirls-towards-philippines-1.394466)

**Reuters/AP -** [**http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/\_news/2013/11/07/21344788-super-typhoon-haiyan-aims-at-philippines-significant-loss-of-life-predicted?lite**](http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/11/07/21344788-super-typhoon-haiyan-aims-at-philippines-significant-loss-of-life-predicted?lite)

**Thailand**

**Thai opposition issues ultimatum to end amnesty bill**

The opposition Thai Democrats issued on Thursday an ultimatum to the ruling Pheu Thai Party to scrap the controversial amnesty bill by Monday. "By 6 pm on Monday, the bill must be rid from parliament. Otherwise, we will do what we have to do," Democrat MP Suthep Thaugsuban, who is leading a street protest on Ratchadamnoen Avenue, announced to demonstrators there. The ultimatum came after the protest against the blanket amnesty bill escalated on Wednesday. Local reports put the number of demonstrators at Ratchadamnoen Avenue at 20,000, up from about 10,000 the day before, while the Democrat Party claimed there were 50,000. The government has announced it will not resume efforts to push through the blanket amnesty bill if it is rejected by the Senate.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132866905.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132866905.htm)

**Thai PM pleads for end to anti-amnesty protests**

Thailand's embattled prime minister appealed Thursday for an end to escalating street protests against a contentious political amnesty, warning that the unrest would scare off foreign investors and tourists. Thousands of demonstrators have turned out daily in Bangkok since the lower house of parliament last Friday passed a bill which could allow fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra to return. "I want protesters to end the rally. My government was born from elections so we respect the will of the people," Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's younger sister, said in a televised address. "Protests affect the economy and hurt foreign investor confidence, and tourists will not dare to come," she added. Thousands of police were mobilized in the capital on Thursday as protesters marched towards Government House. Demonstrators were blocked by barbed wire barricades and riot police before reaching the seat of government.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104792-thai-pm-pleads-for-end-to-anti-amnesty-protests**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104792-thai-pm-pleads-for-end-to-anti-amnesty-protests)

**Vietnam**

**Ensuring food security tops agenda at regional workshop in Vietnam**

Building scenarios for food security, environment and livelihoods for Southeast Asia by 2050 has drawn most attention from participants in an ongoing three-day workshop held in Vietnam's northern Quang Ninh province. The event, to be wrapped up on Thursday, was attended by about 60 international and Vietnamese decision makers and researchers who are interested in related issues, local daily Vietnam News reported Thursday. The workshop would try to capture the complex socio-cultural, economic undercurrent of factors -- markets, governance, economic and infrastructure developments -- in the region that would be crucial for food security and would also be impacted by climate change, said Leocadio Sebastian, leader of the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Regional Program for Southeast Asia, under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, at the conference.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132867202.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132867202.htm)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Ethiopia accuses Eritrea, Al Shabaab of plotting attack**

Ethiopia on Wednesday said that Somalia's Islamist al-Shabaab, backed by arch-rival Eritrea, is planning to carry out attacks on its soil. The National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and the federal police said they have found credible evidence that the al Qaeda-linked al shabaab militant group is preparing to conduct terrorist attacks in the capital Addis Ababa and in other parts of the country. According to officials, Ethiopia has put its security forces and police on high alert mainly in crowded areas, public facilities and on other places suspected to be targets for terror attacks. Security is expected to be beefed up at border points. The Al-Shabaab has in the past repeatedly vowed to carry out attacks against Ethiopia in retaliation to Addis Ababa's military intervention in Somalia.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48709**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48709)

LAC

**Colombia**

**Political role for rebels in Colombia talks**

President Juan Manuel Santos is hailing a partial agreement on a role in Colombian politics for the nation's largest rebel group as an unprecedented accomplishment after a year of peace talks. He also told the nation in a televised address Wednesday evening, hours after the pact was announced in Havana, that there would be no suspension in negotiations just because election season is now imminent. Santos is up for re-election in May and is expected to soon formally announce his intentions. Wednesday's agreement can only help his chances.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/political-role-rebels-colombia-talks-20811758**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/political-role-rebels-colombia-talks-20811758)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israeli settlements are illegitimate: Kerry**

John Kerry, the US secretary of state, has said that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are "illegitimate" and not helpful to ongoing efforts for peace between Palestine and Israel. Kerry's comments on Wednesday came after he met Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, in Bethlehem. "Let me emphasise that the position of the US is that we consider now, and have always considered, the settlements to be illegitimate," he said. He added that there was no deal that the Palestinians recognised the illegal settlements in return for peace.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/kerry-israeli-settlements-are-illegitimate-201311613594909400.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/kerry-israeli-settlements-are-illegitimate-201311613594909400.html)

**Egypt**

**Egyptian Islamist group to rally against protest law**

A hardline Egyptian Islamist group has said it will rally in defiance of a new law designed to regulate protests that the government is expected to pass next week. The interim government is studying the draft law and is expected to ratify it next week before a state of emergency, imposed by the army after it ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi on July 3, expires on November 14. International rights groups say it will effectively ban demonstrations. "We will protest against the law as soon as soon as it is ratified and we will be on the lookout," said Alaa Abu al-Nasr, secretary general of Islamist group al-Gamaa al-Islamiya's political wing, the Building and Development Party.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/uk-egypt-law-idUKBRE9A60MO20131107**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/07/uk-egypt-law-idUKBRE9A60MO20131107)

**Iran**

**Sunni rebels claims Iran prosecutor assassination**

The Sunni extremist group Jaish-ul Adl has claimed responsibility for the assassination of a public prosecutor in Iran's restive southeast, media reports said Thursday. The reports came a day after Mousa Nouri, prosecutor of the city of Zabol which lies near the Afghan border in Sistan-Baluchestan province, was gunned down in a "terrorist attack," according to officials. Jaish-ul Adl, the rebel group formed last year whose name means Army of Justice in Arabic, said in a statement Wednesday night that the assassination was carried out in retaliation for a mass hanging last week.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-07/237079-sunni-rebels-claims-iran-prosecutor-assassination.ashx#axzz2jx2sH2B6**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Nov-07/237079-sunni-rebels-claims-iran-prosecutor-assassination.ashx#axzz2jx2sH2B6)

**Iraq**

**Suicide car bombing in Iraq kills 3**

At least three soldiers were killed and five others wounded on Thursday in a suicide car bomb attack on a military base in Iraq's western province of Anbar, a provincial police source told Xinhua. The attack occurred before noon when a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a checkpoint at the entrance of an Iraqi army base in central the city of Aana, some 260 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity. An army officer was among the dead, the source said, adding that the troops captured a suspect who was filming the attack.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132868143.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132868143.htm)

**Violence in Iraq sparks new sectarian displacement**

When the sectarian conflict between Iraq's majority Shia community and minority Shia community was at its peak between 2006 and 2007, many people were forced from their homes. UNHCR estimated that up to two million Iraqi refugees were living in neighbouring countries in March 2007. Today, there are more than 1.1 million IDPs. Most live in Baghdad, Diyala and Nineveh provinces. Some 467,000 IDPs, former refugees and squatters remain in more than 382 settlements on public land or in public buildings, enduring harsh living conditions and with limited access to electricity, sanitation, schooling or sufficient job opportunities, according to the UNHCR. This year, sectarian violence has once more become routine on the streets of Iraq, with 6,500 civilians killed since January - a death toll not seen since 2008.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24838333#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24838333)

**Jordan**

**‘400 Syrians flee to Jordan amid border siege’**

Around 400 Syrians crossed into the Kingdom early Wednesday, the Jordan Armed Forces said, as Damascus continued its months-long siege of the Jordanian-Syrian border region. Syrian rebels expressed concern over the fate of some 5,000 displaced civilians who are reportedly taking refuge in the under-siege border towns, claiming that the vast majority remain without shelter and are exposed to the near-hourly bombing raids. “Round after round of bombs are falling non-stop, and hundreds of families have nowhere to run,” said Abu Omar Al Darawi, a commander of a Free Syrian Army battalion outside Al Taseel, where some 1,000 displaced people are reportedly taking refuge. Rebel officials and local residents could not confirm any casualties in Wednesday’s bombings, but the eight-week-long aerial offensive has reportedly left over 130 would-be refugees dead.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/400-syrians-flee-to-jordan-amid-border-siege**](http://jordantimes.com/400-syrians-flee-to-jordan-amid-border-siege)

**Lebanon**

**Army disperses protesters near Tripoli's Bab al-Tabbaneh**

A number of youths gathered at the Abou Ali roundabout in the northern city of Tripoli on Wednesday to protest the army's recent measures in the neighborhood of Bab al-Tabbaneh, reported the National News Agency. It said that the army soon arrived at the scene to disperse the protesters by opening fire into the air. The gatherers were protesting the army's setting up of a barrier at one of the entrance of Bab al-Tabbaneh. The youths described the barrier as a "blockade" of the area. The army later blocked with barbed wire one of the entrances of the neighborhood and used tear gas to disperse the youths, reported LBCI television.

**Naharnet -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104700-army-disperses-protesters-near-tripoli-s-bab-al-tabbaneh**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/104700-army-disperses-protesters-near-tripoli-s-bab-al-tabbaneh)

**Libya**

**Libya's teachers on strike over worsening economy**

A Libyan official says a three-day teachers' strike to protest worsening economy and demand a pay increase has shut down 95 percent of the schools in the capital, Tripoli, and elsewhere in the country. The education ministry official says the strike is expected to end on Thursday. He provided no details on whether the teachers' demands had been met. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media. The ministry spokesman, Samer Gernaz, says Libya's more than half a million teachers are among the lowest-paid state employees.

**AP -** [**http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Libya-s-teachers-on-strike-over-worsening-economy-4963406.php**](http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Libya-s-teachers-on-strike-over-worsening-economy-4963406.php)

**State of Palestine**

**PLO official urges global probe into Arafat ’killing’**

A PLO official on Thursday called for an international inquiry into "the killing" of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a day after Swiss scientists said he probably died from polonium poisoning. "The (test) results proved Arafat was poisoned by polonium, and this substance is owned by states, not people, meaning that the crime was committed by a state," said Wasel Abu Yusef, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee.

**AFP -** [**http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/143474-plo-official-urges-global-probe-into-arafat-killing.html**](http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/143474-plo-official-urges-global-probe-into-arafat-killing.html)

**Sudan**

**Armed group of 'Kabaro' signs peace treaty in West Darfur**

The armed group led by Yusuf Ahmed Ali Gutiya, also known as Kabaro, has signed an agreement with the government of West Darfur state to join the peace process. Sources reported to Radio Dabanga that the signing of the agreement took place on Monday. Jibril Balayil, head of Military Intelligence, 15th Infantry Division, signed on behalf of West Darfur state. Gutiya himself signed on behalf of the armed group. The governor of West Darfur state, Haidar Gulakoma, welcomed Kabaro’s group and affirmed the state government's commitment to the terms of the peace agreement. The same sources noted that Kabaro is one of the leaders of “a local government militia”, considered responsible for serious violations and assaults against civilians in Central and West Darfur.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/58460**](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/58460)

**Misseriya attack Salamat in Mukjar, Central Darfur**

A number of people have been killed and injured during renewed tribal clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat in Mukjar locality, Central Darfur. A resident from Eir told Radio Dabanga that on Wednesday, Misseriya tribesmen, together with members of the Taisha tribe, travelling in nine Land Cruisers, on camels, horses, and motorcycles, attacked Salamat in the Dambar areas of Eir and Elrajul Tujma, killing and injuring several people. Other sources added that the “renewed tribal clashes were able to occur because of the absence of the Central Darfur state government”.

**Radio Dabanga -** [**https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/58517**](https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/58517)

**Syria**

**Syria army retakes key rebel town near Damascus: monitor**

Troops backed by Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah fighters and other pro-regime militiamen on Thursday retook Sbeineh, a major rebel enclave south of Damascus, a monitoring group and state television said. "Sbeineh was one of the most important rebel positions on Damascus' outskirts. Rebels in southern Damascus have now had practically all their supply routes cut off," said Syrian Observatory for Human Rights director Rami Abdel Rahman.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ibTFmMqAMrfj8IMpK5lk9l2mKj\_w?docId=c21d021a-1867-4bd5-a2bf-39c4be01e21a**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ibTFmMqAMrfj8IMpK5lk9l2mKj_w?docId=c21d021a-1867-4bd5-a2bf-39c4be01e21a)

**Violence intensifies in Syria as peace talks postponed**

Explosions and mortar attacks intensified on Wednesday in the unrest-torn country, leaving tens of people killed and wounded, a day after the long-awaited peace conference on Syria was postponed due to the division among the exiled Syrian opposition groups. As many as 25 mortar shells slammed into several districts of the capital Damascus on Wednesday and a deadly car bomb left tens of people killed and wounded in the southern province of Sweida, according to local media reports. The media said the rebels were behind the attacks. Eight people were killed and tens of others wounded Wednesday in the time-honored al-Hijaz Square in the heart of Damascus, when an explosive device ripped through the crowded square. The blast in al-Hijaz was the deadliest among other mortar attacks in Damascus that left injuries and an undisclosed number of causalities.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_125662540.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_125662540.htm)

**Red Cross appeals for security, safety for humanitarian workers in Syria**

The head of the ICRC in Damascus, Magne Barth, said the conflict in Syria is "very tough," urging all parties of the Syrian conflict to ensure security and safety for the humanitarian workers in their mission. Speaking to Xinhua in a recent interview, Barth stressed that the humanitarian mission is not part of any political fight, appealing to the conflicting sides to ensure the safety of the humanitarian volunteers. Several staff members of the ICRC have been kidnapped in the northern province of Idlib. Their local partner, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, has lost more than 31 volunteers during the country's long-running violence. In spite of the challenges, Barth said their humanitarian work will continue in Syria.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c\_125662393.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/06/c_125662393.htm)

**Yemen**

**Clashes in northern Yemen blocks humanitarian aid: UN**

Fighting between armed groups in northern Yemen has cut off humanitarian aid to thousands of civilians in the town of Dammaj, a UN spokesperson said Wednesday. Three villages in the area have run short of food, water and medicine and the access was limited, acting UN deputy spokesman, Farhan Haq, said at a regular briefing, citing OCHA. Aid agencies were concerned about some 29,000 people living in the Dammaj area in the remote northern Saada province, he said. On Monday, the International Committee of the Red Cross entered the Dammaj area and evacuated 23 wounded people, but said there were others left in the town.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132865400.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132865400.htm)

**Yemeni president warns of sectarian fighting**

Yemen's president has warned of sectarian violence in his country after deadly clashes continued for a second week in the restive north between rebels from a branch of Shia Islam and ultraconservative Sunnis. In remarks aired on Tuesday by state TV, President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi denounced "sectarian fighting that does not serve the security or stability of the nation". Rebels known as Houthis are clashing with conservative Salafis and jihadists in the city of Damaj, in the northern Saada province. Hadi called for both sides to practice "self-restraint". A UN envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar, was in contact with both camps to end the fighting. Since Wednesday, at least a hundred people have reportedly died in fighting between the two groups.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/yemeni-president-warns-sectarian-fighting-20131160566599425.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/yemeni-president-warns-sectarian-fighting-20131160566599425.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Would-be suicide bomber arrested in Afghan capital**

Afghan security forces on Thursday detained a would-be suicide bomber in the national capital Kabul, thwarting a potential terror attack. "One man named Sayyed Habib wearing an explosive-laden jacket was arrested by the personnel of National Directorate for Security (NDS) in Kabul. He tried to launch a suicide bombing against a high-ranking security official. But the attack was prevented," NDS, the country' s intelligence agency said in a statement. The detainee is a member of Taliban insurgent group, the statement said, adding an investigation was launched into the case. The Taliban has yet to make comments.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132867342.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132867342.htm)

**India**

**50 kg of explosives seized in central India**

Security forces averted a possible landmine blast Thursday on a vital road in the election- bound central Indian state of Chhattisgarh as they diffused two IEDs weighing 50 kg at Dantewada, around 1,500 km from the capital. A joint team of Central Reserve Police Force and Chhattisgarh police detected the two big IEDs of 25 kg each kept in steel cases on the road between Dornapal and Jagargunda near Chintalnar in Sukma District of the state.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132867200.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132867200.htm)

**Suspected left-wing rebels kill 2 in India**

Suspected left-wing guerrillas have killed two people in the central Indian state Jharkhand, said police on Thursday. The attack took place Wednesday in the state's Khuti district around 70 km from the state capital Ranchi. One of the killed was an activist of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The left-wing Naxalite rebels are active in about 10 Indian state, especially in eastern and central India.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132867660.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132867660.htm)

**Maldives**

**Maldives moves up runoff vote to avoid deadlock**

Maldives officials have moved up a possible presidential election runoff for this Sunday, one day after the first round of voting in a bid to avoid a potential constitutional crisis. Maldives failed to hold a presidential election in two attempts since September and it must have an elected president by Nov. 11, when the current presidential term ends. If no clear winner emerges Saturday, and a runoff originally planned for Nov. 16, the country could face a political deadlock. The Maldives Supreme Court annulled a Sept. 7 vote saying the voters' register was flawed. Police stopped a second attempt because the candidates did not approve the register. The Indian Ocean archipelago is under pressure to hold a credible election. U.S. and Britain warn that a failure would damage its reputation.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/maldives-moves-runoff-vote-avoid-deadlock-20812684**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/maldives-moves-runoff-vote-avoid-deadlock-20812684)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistan arrests al-Qaeda man wanted for kidnapping US national**

Pakistani authorities have arrested an al-Qaeda operative who was among the suspects behind the kidnapping of an American national, local media reported Thursday. Saifullah, identified as a close aide of al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, was arrested in Pakpatan, a main town 184 kilometers from Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province, the Geo television reported. He was wanted to security agencies for his involvement in the kidnapping of US national Warren Weinstein, who had been working with an American private firm in Lahore and was kidnapped from his residence in August 2011.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c\_132868349.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/07/c_132868349.htm)

**Pakistani Taliban elect new leader – spokesman**

The Pakistani Taliban have elected Mullah Fazlullah, a ruthless commander from the Swat Valley, as their new leader following the death of Hakimullah Mehsud in a US drone strike last week, a Taliban spokesman said. "Fazlullah is the new TTP (Pakistani Taliban) chief," he said. "The decision was taken at a shura meeting today."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131107124800-vn4cy**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131107124800-vn4cy)

WCAR

**CAR**

**CAR humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate**

The ICRC said it is continuing to assist families who fled renewed fighting in recent weeks in the main towns of the Central African Republic. The organization expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation as people have been forced to take refuge in the bush. In response, volunteers from the ICRC and the CAR Red Cross said they are distributing food and burying the dead.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/car-icrc-aid-flee-displaced-yaloke-needs-fighting/1784732.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/car-icrc-aid-flee-displaced-yaloke-needs-fighting/1784732.html)

**Evidence of massacre uncovered in CAR**

Al Jazeera has uncovered evidence that armed forces in the Central African Republic were responsible for a massacre that took place on October 26, a few kilometres from the centre of the town of Bouar. Eighteen people were killed in the incident, the youngest victim just two weeks old. Human rights organisations estimate that thousands of people have been killed amid the deterioraring security situation. In an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera's Nazanine Moshiri in Bangui, Djotodia has admitted that Seleka fighters do not follow his orders. "When we arrived in Bangui, all the jobless, big-time bandits and escapees from prison ... dressed in uniform and said they were Seleka," he said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/11/evidence-massacre-uncovered-car-2013117671860551.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/11/evidence-massacre-uncovered-car-2013117671860551.html)

**DR Congo**

**Fears of revenge attacks on alleged M23 collaborators in eastern DRC**

Authorities and aid groups in eastern DRC are calling on residents to live in harmony amid reported threats against alleged collaborators of the defeated M23 rebel group. Human Rights Watch has urged the Congolese authorities to "issue explicit orders to all members of the security forces not to carry out revenge attacks or other abuses against members of the Tutsi ethnic group or suspected M23 collaborators. Those implicated in such acts should be promptly brought to justice." Some of the rebel sympathizers who fled when the army regained control of Kiwanja are fearful of returning.

**IRIN-** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=99071**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=99071)

**Mali**

**Al-Qaida takes responsibility for reporters' death**

Al-Qaida's branch in North Africa claimed credit Wednesday for slaying two French radio journalists who were abducted in northern Mali over the weekend, according to a statement published online. It was an admission of responsibility for a kidnapping that experts said didn't fit the terrorist network's usual standards of operation. A Mali intelligence official involved in the case said investigators believe the kidnapping was the work of a lower-level jihadist trying to return to the good graces of the al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb after being accused of stealing money. The militant is believed to have been reporting to Abdelkarim al-Targui, a prominent Malian in the al-Qaida branch, the official said.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/al-qaida-takes-responsibility-reporters-death-20805040**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/al-qaida-takes-responsibility-reporters-death-20805040)

**Mauritania**

**Thousands rally against upcoming elections in Mauritania**

Thousands of Mauritanians rallied in the capital Nouakchott on Wednesday to protest against nationwide elections later this month that have been dismissed by the opposition as a sham. "Unilateral elections kill democracy," the demonstrators chanted, as they marched through the city centre, an AFP reporter saw. No incidents were reported during the protest, which was closely watched by security forces. The demo was organised by the umbrella Coordination of Democratic Opposition (COD).  
**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-rally-against-upcoming-elections-mauritania-215911003.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-rally-against-upcoming-elections-mauritania-215911003.html)

**Nigeria**

**Nigerian lawmakers approve state of emergency extension**

Nigerian lawmakers on Thursday approved a request by the country's president to prolong emergency rule in the restive northeast by a further six months to try to quell a bloody Islamist insurgency. Senators in the upper house of parliament voted unanimously in favour of Goodluck Jonathan's request and agreed "to extend the state of emergency in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states on the same terms and conditions", the approved motion read.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/85871/World/International/Nigerian-lawmakers-approve-state-of-emergency-exte.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/85871/World/International/Nigerian-lawmakers-approve-state-of-emergency-exte.aspx)

**Sierra Leone**

**Fighting gender-based violence in Sierra Leone**

The September prosecution of Sierra Leone's former Deputy Education Minister Mahmoud Tarawally on rape charges made headlines and highlighted the prevalence of sexual violence in the country. More than 6,500 incidents of domestic- and gender-based violence were reported in Sierra Leone in the first eight months of 2013, almost as many as in the whole of 2012. Authorities say the upward trend is likely due to more people deciding to report cases of sexual abuse. Impunity surrounding gender-based crimes is a major contributing factor. Community-based organizations are being supported in their efforts to encourage victims to seek justice through the courts.

**IRIN-** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=99070**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=99070)

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