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CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia faces new U.S., EU sanctions over Ukraine crisis**

European Union governments agreed on Thursday to begin their new sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine crisis on Friday but could lift them next month if Moscow abides by a fragile truce, while the United States prepared its own fresh sanctions. The steps are the latest by the United States and the EU following Russia's annexation of Crimea in March and what the West sees as an effort since then to further destabilize Ukraine by backing pro-Russian separatists with troops and arms. President Barack Obama said he will provide details on the new U.S. sanctions on Friday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0H61O720140912**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0H61O720140912)

**Turkey**

**Erdogan approves law tightening Turkey’s Internet controls**

# Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan approved a law tightening government control of the Internet and expanding the powers of the telecoms authority late on Thursday, part of the first legislative package he has effected as head of state. Parliament passed the law late on Monday. The new law comes on top of legislation passed in February that made it easier for the authorities to block access to web pages without a prior court order, prompting public anger and raising concern about freedom of speech.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-turkey-internet-idUSKBN0H70N920140912**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-turkey-internet-idUSKBN0H70N920140912)

**Ukraine**

**Kiev says rebels extend control of east border to Azov Sea**

The Ukrainian authorities acknowledged on 11 September that pro-Russian rebels had extended their control over territory on the eastern border with Russia to the Sea of Azov. The announcement by the National Security and Defence Council follows a lightning offensive across the southeast area launched by the pro-Russian separatists last month.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/110495/World/International/Kiev-says-rebels-extend-control-of-east-Ukraine-bo.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/110495/World/International/Kiev-says-rebels-extend-control-of-east-Ukraine-bo.aspx)

**EU scales up its assistance for the conflict-affected people**

The European Commission is mobilising funding of €22 million to assist the population of Ukrainian regions suffering from the consequences of the conflict. This funding consists of two parts: €5 million is humanitarian aid and €17 million development aid. The humanitarian part of the funding to be channelled through humanitarian partner organisations addresses the basic needs of the population in the areas directly affected by the conflict, the internally displaced and refugees who have fled the conflict areas, as well as returnees who are going back home to areas recovered by the Ukrainian government forces. The funds will cover shelter, food, water, healthcare, psycho-social assistance and protection in preparation for the coming winter.

**ECHO -** [**http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\_IP-14-1002\_en.htm**](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1002_en.htm)

**Ukraine’s leader sees no military solution of crisis, eyes reforms**

Ukraine's president said on Friday there could be no military solution to his country's crisis and said he hoped "a very fragile" ceasefire in the east would hold, allowing him to focus on rebuilding the shattered economy. Petro Poroshenko also said a new wave of European Union sanctions against Russia underlined Western solidarity with Kiev, and that the Ukrainian and EU parliaments could both ratify a deal on closer economic and political ties on Sept. 16.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0H61O720140912**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0H61O720140912)

EAP

**Myanmar**

**Authorities lift curfew in violence-racked Sittwe**

Myanmar on 11 September lifted a curfew imposed in June 2012 when clashes between Buddhists and minority Muslims erupted throughout western Rakhine state. Most victims of the violence were Muslim Rohingya. The UN says almost 140,000 Rohingya remain in camps after being driven from their homes by Buddhist mobs in 2012. Sectarian tension has simmered in Rakhine and aid agencies were forced to evacuate Sittwe in March when Buddhists attacked their offices after accusing them of favoring Muslims. But state government spokesperson said that tension had eased.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-myanmar-curfew-idUSKBN0H60XF20140911**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-myanmar-curfew-idUSKBN0H60XF20140911)

**Philippines**

**Twelve rebels, two troops killed in clash**

Two Philippine soldiers and 10 members of a rebel group opposed to a government peace accord died in a clash on 11 September, a day after the president submitted legislation to Congress to create a new autonomous region, a military commander said. Pursuing troops caught up with about 20 rebels who had attacked an army detachment in North Cotabato province, triggering a firefight, a military commander said. He said six soldiers were wounded in the two-hour gunbattle.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/12-killed-clash-southern-philippines-25424888**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/12-killed-clash-southern-philippines-25424888)

**Thailand**

**Rights group calls on junta to end repression**

Amnesty International on 11 September called on Thailand's ruling military to end what it says is a "disturbing pattern of repression" in the country since the army seized power in a May coup. Amnesty International made the appeal in a new report, saying it has received credible reports that detainees have been tortured. The military, including coup leader has denied such allegations. "Three months since the coup, a picture emerges from our investigations of widespread and far-reaching human rights violations perpetrated by the military government that are ongoing," said Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Director, wrote in the report.

**AI -** [**http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/thailand-no-let-spiral-repression-100-days-after-military-takeover-2014-09-11**](http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/thailand-no-let-spiral-repression-100-days-after-military-takeover-2014-09-11)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**Alarming food insecurity**

With high malnutrition rates, prolonged displacement and health-care facilities under enormous pressure, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains bleak. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced and still live in camps or temporary settlements, and some are scattered in remote places far from any services. In several parts of the country, malnutrition is widespread, particularly among children. Because the rainy season will last until the end of the year, and the security situation remains fragile, food currently needs to be brought in by air.

**ICRC -** [**https://www.icrc.org/en/document/south-sudan-alarming-food-insecurity-forces-budget-boost#.VBHxuGjD\_cs**](https://www.icrc.org/en/document/south-sudan-alarming-food-insecurity-forces-budget-boost#.VBHxuGjD_cs)

LAC

**Colombia**

**War victims urge ceasefire during peace talks**

Colombian war victims demanded a bilateral ceasefire to halt the conflict in a direct challenge to the Colombian President, who has resisted rebel calls for a ceasefire during peace talks. A group of 12 victims asked the Colombian military and the guerrillas of the FARC to lay down their arms while continuing to talk. "As victims we demand ... a bilateral ceasefire to hostilities right away, with the objective of preventing the further victimization of the Colombian people," 12 of the victims said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-colombia-rebels-idUSKBN0H603420140911**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-colombia-rebels-idUSKBN0H603420140911)

**Authorities capture top guerrilla child recruiter**

Colombian police captured a FARC guerrilla reputed to have recruited large numbers of minors to serve in the rebel ranks, authorities said on 11 September. The capture was carried out with the help of the army and the air force in a rural part of the municipality of Yondo, in northwestern Antioquia province, according to a police communique. The police say that he is allegedly responsible for 80% of the illegal recruitment of minors for the Middle Magdalena Bloc of FARC. The Middle Magdalena Bloc operates in the provinces of Bolivar, Santander and Antioquia. He allegedly deceived women and children with promises of large sums of money in exchange for abandoning school and coming into the jungle to live and work with the FARC, authorities said.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/09/11/colombia-captures-top-guerrilla-recruiter/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/09/11/colombia-captures-top-guerrilla-recruiter/)

**Chikungunya infections spread to Colombia**

Colombia's health ministry has confirmed the first four cases of chikungunya virus in the country.All four are thought to have contracted the mosquito-borne virus locally. Tens of thousands of people have been infected in other Caribbean countries since the outbreak in the Americas began in December. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for the mosquito-borne virus, which resembles dengue fever and can cause fever, skin rash and joint pain. "Based on what has happened in other countries, chikungunya could infect about 670,000 people in Colombia in the next few months," said Deputy Health Minister Fernando Ruiz.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-29169337**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-29169337)

**Haiti**

**UN calls for elections before the end of the year**

Amid continuing mistrust and disagreement over the electoral process in Haiti, a senior UN official voiced deep concern over the political stalemate in the country. Stressing that no agreement had been reached on the required framework for the elections to be held, the head of MINUSTAH expressed concern that inability to carry out the polls before the end of the year that may result in “creating an institutional vacuum” after the current Parliament will be rendered dysfunctional on 12 January 2015.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48694#.VBIP3WjD\_cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48694#.VBIP3WjD_cs)

**Peru**

**Authorities impose state of emergency in Amazon**

The Peruvian government on 11 September imposed a state of emergency in two Amazonian districts to battle a surge in drug smuggling along the borders with Brazil and Colombia. The state of emergency, which allows for warrantless searches and a ban on public gatherings, will apply for 60 days in Ramon Castilla and Yavari, two districts in the Loreto region. Around 28,000 people live in the affected districts. The armed forces are to assist the PNP in maintaining order in Ramon Castilla and Yavari.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/09/11/peru-imposes-state-emergency-in-amazon-to-fight-drug-smuggling/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/09/11/peru-imposes-state-emergency-in-amazon-to-fight-drug-smuggling/)

**Venezuela**

**Venezuela extends night closure of Colombia border to stop smuggling**

Venezuela said on Thursday it would extend an overnight closure of its border with neighboring Colombia for another three months in a campaign to stop widespread fuel and food smuggling. The measures to stop traffic crossing between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., and limit the movement of cargo vehicles during the day, were introduced in mid-August to combat the lucrative business in smuggling heavily subsidized Venezuelan products. "We are going to pursue and punish smugglers with double severity," President Nicolas Maduro said. "

**Reuters -**[**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-venezuela-colombia-idUSKBN0H62ND20140911**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-venezuela-colombia-idUSKBN0H62ND20140911)

MENA

**Libya**

**Despite chaos, Libya hopes to hold constitution vote in December**

Libya hopes to hold a referendum on a new constitution in December, a committee said on Thursday, undeterred by a descent into chaos and violence that has forced the elected parliament to move hundreds of miles from the capital. But in a reminder of the anarchy gripping the oil producer Islamist militants attacked the civil defence headquarters in Benghazi, while fighting erupted west of the capital Tripoli. Western powers hope the constitution will help bridge at least some of the differences dividing the desert nation along tribal and regional lines more than three years after the toppling of veteran ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140911154533-q2k3b/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140911154533-q2k3b/?source=search)

**State of Palestine**

**Deal reached on Gaza reconstruction**

President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority said Thursday night that he had reached an agreement with Israel and the United Nations to allow imports of reconstruction materials into the Gaza Strip, apparently bypassing Hamas to fulfill a key tenet of the cease-fire agreement that halted hostilities on Aug. 26. A United Nations diplomat confirmed that the deal was due to be finalized and announced on Friday.

**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/12/world/middleeast/gaza-reconstruction-israel-abbas.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/12/world/middleeast/gaza-reconstruction-israel-abbas.html)

**Sudan**

**ICC issues arrest warrant for Darfur rebel**

The ICC has issued an arrest warrant for a Darfur rebel accused of leading a deadly attack on AU peacekeepers in Sudan and has scrapped a plan to start his trial on 18 November. The court issued the warrant on 11 September for Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain, who was charged in 2009 with leading a 29 September 2007, attack on the peacekeepers' camp in Haskanita, Sudan, that left 12 AU soldiers dead and eight seriously wounded. Banda has always said he wants to appear for trial voluntarily. The court issued the warrant after the Sudanese government failed to cooperate in facilitating his appearance in The Hague.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/court-issues-arrest-warrant-darfur-rebel-25432805**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/court-issues-arrest-warrant-darfur-rebel-25432805)

**Syria**

**Syria warns against foreign intervention after Obama speech**

Any foreign intervention in Syria would be an act of aggression unless it is approved by Damascus, a Syrian government minister said on Thursday, after the United States said it was prepared to strike against Islamic State militants in the country. Syria has repeatedly warned that any action on its soil needs its approval and has said it is willing to work with any country to tackle Islamic State fighters who have captured large areas of Syria and neighbouring Iraq. "Any action of any type without the approval of Syrian government is an aggression against Syria," Ali Haidar, minister of national reconciliation affairs, told reporters in Damascus.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140911131025-gf7zt/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140911131025-gf7zt/?source=jtTheWire)

**Yemen**

**Yemen to name new PM in deal with Houthis**

Yemen's president has offered to appoint a new prime minister within 48 hours under a fresh accord with Shiite rebels in return for ending their protests, a source close to the presidency said Thursday. There was no immediate confirmation of the deal from the rebels, whose protests - and the sometimes deadly government response - have raised fears of worsening unrest in the Arabian Peninsula country. “An accord was reached... late on Wednesday” to end the country's latest political impasse, by which “a new prime minister will be named within 48 hours” and fuel prices will be further cut, the source said.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/09/11/Source-Yemen-to-name-new-PM-in-deal-with-Houthis-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/09/11/Source-Yemen-to-name-new-PM-in-deal-with-Houthis-.html)

SA

**Across SA**

**46 percent of South Asia girls marry by 18- UNICEF**

Nearly half of girls in South Asia marry before their 18th birthday as children in the region continue paying the price of persistent inequality, according to a UNICEF report released Thursday. The UNICEF report said that child marriage is pervasive in South Asia even though most countries in the region have a legal marrying minimum age of 18. Before the age of 18, 46 percent of South Asian girls are married, while 18 percent are married before age 15. The highest rate of child marriage was in Bangladesh, where two-thirds of girls are married before age 18, followed by India, Nepal and Bangladesh. The problem is rooted in poverty and social norms.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/unicef-46-percent-south-asia-girls-marry-18-224837419.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/unicef-46-percent-south-asia-girls-marry-18-224837419.html)

**Pakistan**

**Levies official killed in attack on polio team in Bajaur Agency**

A Levies official, on duty to protect a polio vaccination team, was killed in a firing incident in Bajaur Agency, local media reported. The team was attacked while administering polio drops in Damadola- a village in the Agency. Some 58 people including health workers and police providing security have been killed in militant attacks on polio vaccination teams in Pakistan since December 2012. The last attack on polio workers in Pakistan came in March when a female volunteer was shot dead as she travelled to administer polio drops to children in the Soraki neighbourhood of Bannu.

**AFP -** [**http://tribune.com.pk/story/760370/levies-official-killed-in-attack-on-polio-team-in-bajaur-agency/**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/760370/levies-official-killed-in-attack-on-polio-team-in-bajaur-agency/)

**Pakistan rushes to protect more cities from floods**

Pakistani authorities on 11 September moved to protect two major cities from raging floodwaters, readying explosives to divert swollen rivers, in a crisis which has hit more than a million people. The army on 11 September planted explosives in preparation for breaching three strategic dykes to divert waters away from the southern Punjab cities of Muzaffargarh and Multan, a major agricultural centre of two million people. A senior Multan government official reported that the dykes were likely to be blown in the evening, but the blast may be put off if the waters abate. Similar drastic measures were taken on 10 September to protect the city of Jhang, further upstream, where 10,000 people were evacuated overnight, according to senior rescue official.

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24970658/pakistan-rushes-to-protect-more-cities-from-floods/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24970658/pakistan-rushes-to-protect-more-cities-from-floods/)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Boko Haram clashes disrupts learning in Cameroon**

Fighting between Cameroon’s army and Boko Haram militants has forced students in northern Cameroon to stay away. Most of the schools now host refugees who fled the violence. About 1,000 students have gathered at the government bilingual school Kolofata, northern Cameroon. The 8 September was the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year. But shockingly the students found their school had been turned into a refugee center sheltering more than 2,000 people. The refugees fled bloody confrontations between Cameroon's armed forces and the Nigerian militant group Boko Haram.

**DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/boko-haram-clashes-disrupts-learning-in-cameroon/a-17912900**](http://www.dw.de/boko-haram-clashes-disrupts-learning-in-cameroon/a-17912900)

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/un-crisis-looming-cameroon-refugees/2445977.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/un-crisis-looming-cameroon-refugees/2445977.html)

**CAR**

**UN peacekeepers arrive**

A new UN peacekeeping mission gets off the ground next week in the CAR. About 1,500 troops from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and Morocco, among other nations, will join 4,800 African troops already on the ground who will be "re-hatted" to serve in the MINUSCA mission. The mission is facing a mammoth logistical challenge in a country with appalling roads and a smattering of airstrips. The UN Security Council has called for 12,000 troops for the mission - almost double the current size - and UN peacekeeping chief insists it will be up to full force by December.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/un-peacekeepers-arrive-in/1356920.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/un-peacekeepers-arrive-in/1356920.html)

**Mali**

**Mali IDPs and refugees return north, face food crisis**

While a peace accord still has not been reached between the Malian government and the separatist rebels in the north, a growing number of Malian refugees and IDPs are now returning home anyway. The growing number of Malians coming back to the north also coincides with a looming food crisis in the region. Last year's harvest was not good, and already many did not have sufficient rice stocks, said Halle Ousmane, the deputy mayor of Timbuktu.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mali-refugees-return-north-face-food-crisis-25430639**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mali-refugees-return-north-face-food-crisis-25430639)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram puts Maiduguri under 'siege'**

Nigeria's militants have "completely surrounded" Maiduguri, the main city in north-eastern Borno state, traditional elders have warned. The military needed to "fortify" the city, which had a population of more than two million, to prevent an assault "from all directions", they said. The Boko Haram militants had "annexed" areas that were about 50km from Maiduguri, they said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-surrounded-nigerias-maiduguri-elders-142543504.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-surrounded-nigerias-maiduguri-elders-142543504.html)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29155529**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29155529)

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