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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**1.1 million HIV infections in children averted - UNICEF mention**

An estimated 1.1 million HIV infections among children under 15 have been averted, as new cases declined by over 50 per cent between 2005 and 2013, according to data released by UNICEF today ahead of World AIDS Day. This extraordinary progress is the result of expanding the access of millions of pregnant women living with HIV to services for the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). These include lifelong HIV treatment that markedly reduces the transmission of the virus to babies and keeps their mothers alive and well.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201412011416.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201412011416.html)

**HIV's ability to cause AIDS is weakening over time, study finds**

Rapid evolution of HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, is slowing its ability to cause AIDS, according to a study of more than 2,000 women in Africa. Scientists said the research suggests a less virulent HIV could be one of several factors contributing to a turning of the deadly pandemic, eventually leading to the end of AIDS.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201195907-ey0ko/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201195907-ey0ko/?source=leadCarousel)

CEE/CIS

**Moldova**

**Parties favoring EU ahead**

Moldova's pro-European parties began talks on forming a coalition Monday as near-complete results showed them in a strong position despite a drop in support. With 97.7 percent of the vote counted, the three pro-Europe parties were ahead with support of about 45.5 percent, while the two pro-Russia parties had 38.5 percent. The pro-Europe share was down from nearly 52 percent in 2010.

**Yahoo -** [**https://news.yahoo.com/moldovans-vote-torn-between-pull-eu-russia-061333261.html**](https://news.yahoo.com/moldovans-vote-torn-between-pull-eu-russia-061333261.html)

**DN -** [**http://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/ryska-hot-efter-moldaviska-valet/**](http://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/ryska-hot-efter-moldaviska-valet/)

**Turkey**

**Landmines kill civilians fleeing Kobani**

Landmines placed decades ago by the Turkish military have killed at least three civilians trying to flee Syria and injured at least nine others, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said. The landmines, in a restricted zone along the border with Syria, threaten thousands more Syrian refugees. To prevent further casualties and protect civilians, Turkey should undertake immediate efforts to safely relocate over 2,000 Syrian refugees remaining in the minefield and educate the refugees about the risk posed by the landmines, HRW said. Turkey should clear all mined areas on its territory, starting with areas of its border with Syria where refugees may cross and mine clearance personnel can operate safely.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/12/02/syriaturkey-landmines-kill-civilians-fleeing-kobani**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/12/02/syriaturkey-landmines-kill-civilians-fleeing-kobani)

**Ukraine**

**People don’t know what the next months hold**

With winter having arrived in eastern Ukraine MSF is continuing to support hospitals on both sides of the frontline, and expanding its psychological assistance for people in the hardest-hit areas. The needs remain high, because despite the signing of a ceasefire agreement in September, fighting has continued in several cities and towns, with particularly heavy clashes taking place over the past two weeks. In towns along the frontline in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, shelling is ongoing and, in some districts, people have no option but to stay in basements or World War II-era bomb shelters. Banks have closed and most people living in these areas do not have access to cash. Elderly and disabled people are particularly vulnerable and are finding it increasingly difficult to access health care and buy medicines.

**MSF -** [**http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/article/ukraine-people-don%E2%80%99t-know-what-next-months-hold**](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/article/ukraine-people-don%E2%80%99t-know-what-next-months-hold)

**Government agrees ceasefire 'in principle' with Luhansk rebels**

Ukraine's military and separatist forces have agreed "in principle" on a new ceasefire from 5 December in the rebel-held Luhansk region in the east of the country, the OSCE security group said. The deal reported by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the latest attempt to reinforce a much violated ceasefire agreed on 5 September. Shelling by from both sides has continued despite the three-month-old ceasefire deal signed by Ukraine, Russia and the pro-Russian separatists' leaders. Subsequent attempts to forge a stronger truce have failed to halt the artillery fire. The OSCE said representatives from both sides had "agreed in principle to a total ceasefire along the entire line of contact" in the Luhansk region, but that differences remained on certain details.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0JG0UU20141202**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0JG0UU20141202)

EAP

**China**

**Three Hong Kong protest leaders to surrender to police**

Three of the founders of Hong Kong's protest movement called on 2 December for an end to street demonstrations to prevent further violence and to take the campaign for democratic reforms to a new stage. It wasn't clear whether student protesters, who make up the bulk of the activists, would heed the call. Professors Benny Tai Yiu-ting and Chan Kin-man and Pastor Chu Yiu-ming said they plan to surrender to police on 3 December to take responsibility for protests that have shut down parts of the Asian financial center for more than two months.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hong-kong-protest-leaders-surrender-police-27297576**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hong-kong-protest-leaders-surrender-police-27297576)

**Philippines**

**MILF troops undergo orientation for child protection in armed conflicts - UNICEF mention**

To prevent the recruitment and use of minors in armed conflicts, some 4,000 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commanders and troops underwent a series of orientation sessions on the rights and protection of children. UNICEF commended the MILF for its commitment to address the issue and for the steady progress being made in the implementation of the UN-MILF Action Plan to eliminate recruitment and use of children. “The UN, including UNICEF, will continue to support the MILF in the Plan’s implementation and in ensuring the protection of all children affected by armed conflict in Mindanao,” UNICEF Philippines representative Lotta Sylwander said in a press statement on 2 December.

**GMA -** [**http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/390711/news/nation/milf-troops-undergo-orientation-for-child-protection-in-armed-conflicts**](http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/390711/news/nation/milf-troops-undergo-orientation-for-child-protection-in-armed-conflicts)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Gunmen kill 36 workers in a quarry near Somalia border**

Gunmen killed 36 workers in an attack on a quarry in Kenya's Mandera county, which borders Somalia, Kenyan media reported on 2 December. Citizen Television said the 36 workers were killed when suspected al Shabaab militants from Somalia attacked the quarry. The Kenyan Red Cross said the quarry was about 15 km from Mandera town. Some 28 people were killed in the area in November when al Shabaab militants hijacked a Nairobi-bound bus.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/kenyaNews/idAFL6N0TM06L20141202**](http://af.reuters.com/article/kenyaNews/idAFL6N0TM06L20141202)

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/kenyan-president-names-top-security-chiefs-attacks-125509703.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/kenyan-president-names-top-security-chiefs-attacks-125509703.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**FARC, peace negotiators to meet on 2 December**

Delegates from the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group will meet on 2 December in Cuba to discuss resuming peace talks after the rebels released five army captives, the Colombian President said. The Colombian President suspended the two-year-old peace talks in November over the FARC's capture of a Brigadier General, their highest-ranking captive in 50 years of conflict. Speaking a day after the rebels released the Brigadier General, fulfilling a deal to revive the talks, the Colombian President said he had dispatched a government team to Havana, where the negotiations had been taking place.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157472-farc-colombian-peace-negotiators-to-meet-tuesday**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157472-farc-colombian-peace-negotiators-to-meet-tuesday)

**Haiti**

**Police say 34 inmates flee in prison break**

Nearly three dozen prisoners awaiting trial in a crowded jail in a provincial city north of the Haitian escaped by sawing through steel bars, authorities said. Thirty-four prisoners crawled through the window at the jail in Saint Marc and fled into the darkness, according to officials with the Haitian National Police. The Saint Marc Police Commissioner said four of the men had been recaptured, but the rest remained at large. He said all of those who escaped had been awaiting trial, including one facing a murder charge. All five guards who were on overnight duty at the jail have been detained on suspicion of aiding the escape, the Saint Marc Police Commissioner said.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/haiti-police-30-inmates-prison-break-151543719.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/haiti-police-30-inmates-prison-break-151543719.html)

**Mexico**

# Protesters call on president to resign

Demonstrations have been held across Mexico as President Enrique Pena Nieto marked two years in office with his lowest approval rating yet. Thousands marched through Mexico City, denouncing the president's handling of the case of 43 missing students, now presumed dead. Protesters chanted for Nieto to resign while they waved blackened flags of the country. They echoed "you are not alone" to parents of the missing students who joined the protest.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/protest-over-43-missing/1505092.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/protest-over-43-missing/1505092.html)

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2014/12/mexico-protests-president-20141221252768334.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2014/12/mexico-protests-president-20141221252768334.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Islamic State has a 'dirty bomb'**

Islamic State claims to have constructed a dirty bomb after stealing 40kg of uranium from an Iraqi university. Militants boasted of the device on social media, with one even commenting on the destruction such a bomb would wreak in London, four months after the chemical was reported missing from Mosul University.

**Daily mail -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854729/Islamic-State-dirty-bomb-says-British-jihadi-amid-claims-40kg-uranium-taken-Iraqi-university.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854729/Islamic-State-dirty-bomb-says-British-jihadi-amid-claims-40kg-uranium-taken-Iraqi-university.html)

**Lebanon**

**UN’s envoy says women vital for peace**

UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Derek Plumbly underscored the key role women can play in peace-building and in bringing war-torn communities back together for a better future free from violence. “Women experience conflict differently from men, and women have a vital role to play in ending conflict,” Plumbly said in Tyre, addressing women from southern Lebanese villages on Open Day on Women, Peace and Security, according to a statement.

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-01/279516-uns-lebanon-envoy-says-women-vital-for-peace.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-01/279516-uns-lebanon-envoy-says-women-vital-for-peace.ashx)

**Kaag takes up UN special coordinator post**

The head of the U.N. mission to rid Syria of chemical weapons, Sigrid Kaag, is taking up a new post as U.N. special coordinator for Lebanon, a spokesman said. Kaag will succeed British diplomat Derek Plumbly, who has served in the post since 2012. [(Daily Star)](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-02/279594-kaag-takes-up-un-special-coordinator-for-lebanon-post.ashx)

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-02/279594-kaag-takes-up-un-special-coordinator-for-lebanon-post.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-02/279594-kaag-takes-up-un-special-coordinator-for-lebanon-post.ashx)

**Army detains a wife and son of Islamic State leader**

The Lebanese army detained a wife and a son of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as they crossed from Syria in recent days, security officials said on 2 December. The officials declined to give the name or nationality of the woman whom they described as one of his wives. The Lebanese newspaper As-Safir reported the army had detained her in coordination with "foreign intelligence apparatus". It said she had been traveling with a fake passport accompanied by one of her sons.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/us-mideast-crisis-lebanon-baghdadi-idUSKCN0JG0HW20141202**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/us-mideast-crisis-lebanon-baghdadi-idUSKCN0JG0HW20141202)

**Morocco**

**Storms kill at least 11 people**

Floods triggered by torrential rains have killed 11 people in Morocco, a week after a storm left 36 dead, a television report said. Storms again lashed the south of the kingdom, with Agadir experiencing the equivalent of an entire year's rainfall - more than 250mm - between 28 and 30 November. The bad weather, which finally eased on 1 December, led to many rivers bursting their banks and causing widespread damage, especially in the Guelmim region 200km south of Agadir, which has been declared a disaster area. The 2M public television channel said the storm had killed 11 people, citing an "authorised source" as no official national death toll has yet been released.

**AFP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Morocco-storms-kill-11-report-20141202**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Morocco-storms-kill-11-report-20141202)

**State of Palestine**

**Desperate for cement and bulldozers, Gazans face winter in ruins**

Since the July-August war between Israel and the Hamas militants that run Gaza barely any progress has been made rebuilding the shattered territory, despite donors pledging $5 billion. Israel tightly monitors the import of construction materials and equipment into Gaza, arguing that otherwise it could be used to rebuild tunnels used by Hamas militants who control the strip to carry out attacks. Palestinian officials and critics of Israeli policy say that has made it impossible to rebuild, leaving 40,000 of the strip's 1.8 million residents in temporary shelter and thousands more facing winter in barely habitable ruins.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141201172024-in0sn/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141201172024-in0sn/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**Syria**

**War death toll now 'more than 200,000'**

Syria's civil war has killed more than 200,000 people in less than four years, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported on 2 December, adding that most were fighters from the two sides. "We have documented the killing of 202,354 people since March 2011," the Observatory director said, adding that more than 130,000 of them were combatants.

**AFP -** [**https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/syria-war-death-toll-now-more-200-000-122416910.html**](https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/syria-war-death-toll-now-more-200-000-122416910.html)

**Yemen**

**Al-Qaeda bomb attack kills two soldiers**

Bomb attack blamed on Al-Qaeda killed two soldiers and wounded two more in southern Yemen today, a military official said. The blast targeted a 39th armoured brigade checkpoint in Mahfad town in Abyan province, the official said, accusing Al-Qaeda militants of being behind the remotely detonated device.

**Business standard -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/qaeda-bomb-attack-kills-two-yemeni-soldiers-army-114120101344\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/qaeda-bomb-attack-kills-two-yemeni-soldiers-army-114120101344_1.html)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**President to overhaul security**

Facing an intensified Taliban insurgency, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani plans to fire senior civilian and military leaders in the country's most volatile provinces to reinvigorate the battle against militants. Ghani feels there is a need for reform within the armed forces, said Franz-Michael Mellbin, the special representative in Afghanistan for the European Union. There is an inherent weakness in the way the armed forces have been managing their personnel that didn't allow the best and brightest to step forward.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-afghan-president-overhaul-security-27271201**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-afghan-president-overhaul-security-27271201)

**India**

**Ratio of girls in government schools much less than national average**

The percentage of girls enrolling in government schools in urban centers of Rajasthan has touched rock bottom. The data released for academic session 2013-14 by District Information System for Education (DISE), a body of HRD ministry, says that sex ratio in classes I to VIII in state is 84.5 girls for 100 boys. Needless to say that these figures are less than the national average of 92.5 girls for 100 boys. This dismal figure puts Rajasthan only ahead of Haryana which has ratio of 83.5 girls. Haryana also has lowest sex ratio in the country. KB Kothari, former advisor of UNICEF in New York, said, "Ensuring general and social equity in elementary education is a huge challenge for the state. The non-availability of teachers and separate toilets for boys and girls in many schools are also reasons for the decline in numbers."

**Times of India -** [**http://m.timesofindia.com/city/jaipur/Ratio-of-girls-in-govt-schools-much-less-than-national-average/home/education/news/Ratio-of-girls-in-govt-schools-much-less-than-national-average/articleshow/45330449.cms**](http://m.timesofindia.com/city/jaipur/Ratio-of-girls-in-govt-schools-much-less-than-national-average/home/education/news/Ratio-of-girls-in-govt-schools-much-less-than-national-average/articleshow/45330449.cms)

WCA

**Cameroon**

**Soldiers desperate for help in Boko Haram fight**

Boko Haram is increasingly a regional threat and the battle against the Nigerian sect is meant to be a regional campaign -- but that's not the way it feels for Cameroon's soldiers on a desperate frontline. "We are fed up with fighting this war all alone," a Cameroonian officer said as he described his army's resistance against Boko Haram and the lack of military support from neighbouring governments. "The attacks against our territory come from a neighbouring country, which calls itself sovereign and does nothing," said a defence ministry official. The official complained that Cameroon had been drawn into a "proxy war" against Boko Haram, which has stepped up massacres of villagers in Cameroon's far north at the same time as killing and maiming in Nigeria.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/116992/World/International/Cameroon-soldiers-desperate-for-help-in-Boko-Haram.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/116992/World/International/Cameroon-soldiers-desperate-for-help-in-Boko-Haram.aspx)

**DR Congo**

**Three killed in suspected rebel attack in the east**

Three people were killed in the eastern DR Congo in a machete attack blamed on rebels from Uganda, local authorities said on 2 December. The attack, which was repelled by the army, took place in North Kivu province, where rebels from the Allied Democratic Forces and National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU) have been accused of hacking scores of civilians to death since October. The rebels launched their attack on the village of Eringeti, around 40 kilometers from the city of Beni, late on 1 December, a tribal elder reported.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157574-three-killed-in-suspected-rebel-attack-in-east-dr-congo**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157574-three-killed-in-suspected-rebel-attack-in-east-dr-congo)

**Nigeria**

**Twin explosions rock Borno**

Insurgents attacked two northern Nigerian state capitals on 1 December, hitting a police post and setting off explosions in a market that killed at least five people. Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states in Nigeria's northeast have been the main targets of Boko Haram militants fighting for five years to carve a radical state. The insurgents raided the Yobe state capital Damaturu at dawn, setting fire to a mobile police station and shooting at an air force jet that was circling their forces and dropping bombs, according to witnesses.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/01/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKCN0JF1O820141201**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/01/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKCN0JF1O820141201)

**Huge numbers of displaced creates crisis**

Thousands of people are staying in fields, construction sites and other improvised settlements in Yola, the capital of Adamawa state in eastern Nigeria. The army of displaced Nigerians has been left largely to fend for itself to find shelter, food and water, according to the EU, which last week pledged $6.2 million in assistance. The people are flocking to relief centers across the country's northeast, but find overcrowded facilities and a shortage of supplies. "They are exhausted and vulnerable. We must find ways to help and protect them," said the EU commissioner for humanitarian aid, who put the number of displaced Nigerians at 1.6 million.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-huge-numbers-displaced-creates-crisis-27297751**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-huge-numbers-displaced-creates-crisis-27297751)

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