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GENERAL

**Across Regions  
Progress on eliminating measles has stalled, WHO warns**

Progress towards wiping out measles worldwide has stalled, with deaths from the highly contagious disease rising last year and poor vaccine coverage leading to large outbreaks, the WHO said on Thursday. More than 145,000 people died of measles in 2013, up from 122,000 in 2012. Epidemics in China, Congo and Nigeria contributed to this, but there were also outbreaks in the WHO's European region, including in Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/progress-eliminating-measles-stalled-warns-180128418--sector.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/progress-eliminating-measles-stalled-warns-180128418--sector.html)

**Interest growing in emergency health fund - World Bank**

The head of the World Bank said on Friday the idea of establishing a global emergency fund that could quickly respond to a health crisis has received interest and funds for it could be raised on the international bond markets. Last month, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim proposed setting up a global pandemic emergency facility. Speaking to reporters ahead of a G20 meeting in Australia, Kim said funds for the facility could be raised on the international bond markets and paid back over time.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141114100111-c14v0/?source=jtHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141114100111-c14v0/?source=jtHeadlineStory)

**UN Women names Indian star Farhan Akhtar goodwill ambassador**

U.N. Women named Bollywood star Farhan Akhtar as its first male goodwill ambassador to help advance empowerment of women and girls, the organisation said on Thursday.

In his new role as South Asia ambassador for the United Nations agency for gender equality, actor-filmmaker-singer Akhtar will also promote UN Women's popular HeforShe campaign to engage men and boys in women's rights. "We are pleased and honoured to have Farhan as our Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia, for we believe his work and values represent the core values of UN Women," Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women executive director, said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141113214750-pwyg2/?source=jtOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141113214750-pwyg2/?source=jtOtherNews3)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**More Russia sanctions if Ukraine not resolved: Cameron**

Russia could face further sanctions if it does not commit to resolving the conflict in Ukraine, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Friday, as he called Moscow's actions "unacceptable". Cameron, who was in Canberra to address Australia's parliament, said existing sanctions imposed by the West were having an impact on Russia's economy. "If Russia takes a positive approach towards Ukraine's freedom and responsibility, we could see those sanctions removed. If Russia continues to make matters worse, we could see those sanctions increase. It's as simple as that."

**France24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141114-more-russia-sanctions-ukraine-not-resolved-cameron/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141114-more-russia-sanctions-ukraine-not-resolved-cameron/)

**Uzbekistan**

**Children, teachers forced to toil in Uzbek cotton harvest**

Uzbekistan forced millions of children and adults to work in its cotton harvest this year, resulting in deaths, harrassment and extortion, a report by a human rights group said on Friday. "Cotton in Uzbekistan is produced by massive human rights violations, including forced labour," said Umida Niyazova, director of the Uzbek-German Forum. The government needs to dismantle the forced labour system.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141114000022-7ssw9/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141114000022-7ssw9/?source=jtOtherNews1)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Dengue fever epidemic neglected amid Ebola scare**

As the Ebola epidemic rages on in western Africa, there’s concern that another disease - which sickens and kills more people globally - is largely being ignored. Dengue fever, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, continues to spread in countries, including India and Malaysia, where nearly half of the world’s population resides. It causes debilitating flu-like symptoms, rashes, headaches and severe muscle and joint pains.  For that reason, the infection is sometimes called “breakbone disease.”  Like Ebola, dengue is considered a hemorrhagic disease, resulting in death in the worst cases.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/dengue-fever-epidemic-neglected-amid-ebola-scare/2519519.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/dengue-fever-epidemic-neglected-amid-ebola-scare/2519519.html)

**China**

**Hong Kong Activists Plan Trip to Beijing Saturday**

Hong Kong student leaders plan to fly to Beijing Saturday to try to meet China's top officials to press their case for a greater say in choosing the territory's next leader. Eason Chung, a member of a student group that played a main role in organizing street protests that started nearly two months ago, said Friday that he and two others had bought plane tickets for the trip. If they are allowed to enter mainland China, they will go straight to China's legislature to seek talks with Premier Li Keqiang and other officials.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hong-kong-activists-plan-trip-beijing-saturday-26904631**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hong-kong-activists-plan-trip-beijing-saturday-26904631)

**DPRK**

**UN Warned Kim Jong Un on Human Rights**

Next week the United Nations General Assembly is expected to vote on a resolution to refer North Korea to the International Criminal Court. The General Assembly resolution was drafted by the European Union and Japan and has more than 50 co-sponsors. United Nations human rights investigator Marzuki Darusman documented a network of political prisons in North Korea holding 120,000 people and a list of atrocities that include “extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence.”

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/un-warned-kim-jong-un-on-human-rights/2520028.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/un-warned-kim-jong-un-on-human-rights/2520028.html)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**7 wounded in Sudanese airstrike in Upper Nile state**

The spokesman for the South Sudanese army (SPLA), Col. Philip Aguer, told Sudan Tribune that a Sudanese Antonov had launched a bomb attack on Maban county’s Kortumbak area on Wednesday about 3pm (local time). At least seven people have been wounded and the incident sparked widespread panic, forcing civilians to flee their homes.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53038**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53038)

**Uganda**

**WHO confirms Uganda's Marburg-free status**

WHO confirmed on Thursday that Uganda was free of the Ebola-like Marburg virus after completing a 42-day surveillance period with no new cases. The Marburg virus is one of the most deadly known pathogens. Like Ebola, it causes severe bleeding, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea and has a 21-day incubation period. It is also transmitted via contact with bodily fluids and fatality rates range from 25 to 80 percent.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/confirms-ugandas-marburg-free-status-200230403.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/confirms-ugandas-marburg-free-status-200230403.html)

**Zimbabwe**

**Zimbabwe ruling party suspends officials seen as Mugabe critics**

Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party suspended several senior officials aligned to Vice-President Joice Mujuru on Friday, weakening her position in an fierce battle to succeed ageing President Robert Mugabe.

A ZANU-PF politburo meeting, chaired by Mugabe, suspended National party spokesman Rugare Gumbo, expelled war veterans leader Jabulani Sibanda and endorsed the suspension of half the party's provincial chairmen, citing "disciplinary issues".

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/zimbabwe-ruling-party-suspends-officials-seen-mugabe-critics-134630867.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/zimbabwe-ruling-party-suspends-officials-seen-mugabe-critics-134630867.html)

LAC

**Barbados**

**Barbados ratifies U.N. convention against organized crime**

The Government of Barbados has ratified the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime as well as three supplementary protocols dealing with human trafficking and firearms. Parties to the Convention accept "the obligation to criminalize participation in an organized criminal group, money laundering, corruption and the obstruction of justice," the Barbadian government said in a statement. Joseph Goddard, permanent representative of Barbados to the United Nations, handed over the instrument of ratification at U.N. Headquarters in New York.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/13/barbados-ratifies-un-convention-against-organized-crime/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/13/barbados-ratifies-un-convention-against-organized-crime/)

**Mexico**

**Parents of 43 missing in protest tour of Mexico**

The parents of 43 college students who are missing and feared to have been killed began a protest road tour of Mexico on Thursday to pile pressure on the already under-fire government. The parents, who deeply distrust the government, want to tell fellow Mexicans that they do not believe their sons are dead and that the authorities should find them alive.

**AFP -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/2014/11/13/parents-of-43-missing-students-begin-a-protest-tour**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/2014/11/13/parents-of-43-missing-students-begin-a-protest-tour)

**Mexico arrests son of Sinaloa drug cartel chief**

Mexican marines have arrested a son of the powerful Sinaloa drug cartel's top leader in the northwest of the country, officials said Thursday. Ismael Zambada Imperial, alias "The Fat Little Mayo," was captured Wednesday in Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa state. He is the third son of Sinaloa cartel boss Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada to have been captured in recent years.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/mexico-arrests-son-of-sinaloa-drug-cartel-chief\_1498734.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/mexico-arrests-son-of-sinaloa-drug-cartel-chief_1498734.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**IS denies food aid to hundreds of thousands**  
The Islamic State group has denied food and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people and hidden its fighters among civilians since a U.S.-led coalition began launching airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, a U.N. panel investigating war crimes in Syria reported Friday Humanitarian groups have been unable to reach almost 600,000 people in IS-controlled Deir el-Zour and Raqqa provinces, it says, and the group has obstructed the flow of medicine, doctors and nurses into Hassakeh province.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/iraqi-forces-drive-refinery-town-beiji-111710778.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/iraqi-forces-drive-refinery-town-beiji-111710778.html)

**Iraq**

**Government forces drive IS out of Beiji oil refinery town**

Iraqi officials said Friday government forces have driven out Islamic State militants from the oil refinery town of Beiji, north of Baghdad. The Islamic jihadists had captured Beiji during their blitz across northern and western Iraq earlier this year. The town of Beiji is located on a highway leading to the key northern city of Mosul, which largely had fallen under the control of IS militants in June.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/iraqi-forces-drive-is-from-refinery-town-/2520082.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/iraqi-forces-drive-is-from-refinery-town-/2520082.html)

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-official-government-forces-driven-militants-beiji-oil-26906812**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraqi-official-government-forces-driven-militants-beiji-oil-26906812)

**Israel/State of Palestine**

**Israel lifts age bar on Jerusalem mosque prayers**

Men of all ages will be allowed to attend the main weekly Muslim prayers Friday at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound for the first time in "months", a police spokesman said. Police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld linked the decision to lift age restrictions to talks in Jordan on Thursday after which US Secretary of State John Kerry said steps were agreed between King Abdullah II and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to lower tensions at the mosque compound. Israel and Jordan, which has custodial rights at the compound, also agreed to take steps to "de-escalate the situation" in Jerusalem and to "restore confidence".

**France24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141114-israel-lifts-age-bar-jerusalem-mosque-prayers/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141114-israel-lifts-age-bar-jerusalem-mosque-prayers/)

**Libya**

**Car Bombs Explode Near Egyptian and U.A.E. Embassies**

Car bombs exploded outside the embassies of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in Tripoli, [Libya](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/libya/index.html?inline=nyt-geo), early on Thursday, apparently in a backlash against the two countries for their role in a regional proxy war playing out in Libya. No one was wounded in the blasts, according to officials. The embassies were closed months ago, and the bombs exploded early in the morning. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have backed the anti-Islamist faction.

**NY Times -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/14/world/africa/car-bombs-explode-near-egypt-and-uae-embassies-in-libya.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/14/world/africa/car-bombs-explode-near-egypt-and-uae-embassies-in-libya.html?_r=0)

**Syria**

**Islamic State commanders liable for mass war crimes: U.N.**

Islamic State commanders are liable for war crimes on a "massive scale" in northeast Syria where they spread terror by beheading, stoning and shooting civilians and captured fighters, U.N. investigators said on Friday. The experts told world powers to make sure the commanders guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity were held accountable by the International Criminal Court. The latest report by the independent U.N. investigators is based on interviews with more than 300 men, women and children who fled or still live in Islamic State's northeastern stronghold, including Aleppo.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/islamic-state-commanders-liable-mass-war-crimes-u-130941206.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/islamic-state-commanders-liable-mass-war-crimes-u-130941206.html)

**Yemen**

**Yemen's Houthi group endorse new government**

The Shi'ite Muslim Houthi group has endorsed the new Yemeni government despite opposition to some ministers, a presidential aide said on Thursday, in a move that could allow Prime Minister Khaled Bahah to focus on restoring state control over the country. Yemen has been in turmoil since Houthi fighters captured the capital Sanaa in September and forced the government of Prime Minister Mohammed Basindwa to resign. Saleh al-Samad, a member of the Houthi group appointed by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi as a political advisor in September, on Thursday praised Bahah and welcomed the new cabinet while maintaining reservations about some ministers.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141113140504-m2vfc/?source=dpagetopic**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141113140504-m2vfc/?source=dpagetopic)

SA

**Across SA**

**Afghan President visits Pakistan**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is in Islamabad on his first Pakistani state visit since taking office. Ghani will meet with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistani President Mammon Hussain during the visit. Legal adviser to Ghani Abdul Ali Mohammadi said "peace and security" discussions will figure prominently during the Afghan president's visit to its neighbor. Allegations that the Pakistan military supports the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan have strained bilateral relations. The issue is expected to be a subject of discussions during the visit.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/afghan-president-visits-pakistan/2519979.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/afghan-president-visits-pakistan/2519979.html)

**India**

**Indian police arrest surgeon over botched sterilisations**

An Indian doctor who conducted mass sterilisations that killed 13 women has been arrested, after saying he was being made a scapegoat for a controversial family planning scheme. R. K. Gupta was taken into custody as anger mounted over the botched operations in central Chhattisgarh state, where women were paid to undergo a procedure that also left dozens in hospital, police said Thursday. Gupta operated on 83 women in just five hours -- spending an average of less than four minutes on each patient -- at a state-run camp in Bilaspur district at the weekend.

**Yahoo -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/india-police-detain-doctor-over-sterilisations-13-women-041444660.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/india-police-detain-doctor-over-sterilisations-13-women-041444660.html)

WCA

**Burkina Faso**

**Burkina army agrees transition deal with civil groups**

Burkina Faso's army on Thursday reached an agreement with opposition parties, civil groups and religious leaders for a transition to civilian rule, almost two weeks after the ouster of president Blaise Compaore. The different factions "unanimously voted" in favour of a transition charter, said Henry Ye, president of the commission representing the main power players in Burkina Faso. Under the deal, an interim civilian president will be chosen by a special electoral college. A civilian will also head a 90-seat parliament, known as the National Transitional Council.

**France24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141114-burkina-army-agrees-transition-deal-civil-groups/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141114-burkina-army-agrees-transition-deal-civil-groups/)

**CAR**

**Central African Republic Rebels, Peacekeepers Trade Gunfire**

Seleka rebels in Central African Republic blocked two main roads through Bangui on Thursday and exchanged gunfire with U.N. peacekeepers brought in to calm violence. The fighters, based at a military camp in the capital since their leader ceded power to a transitional government in January, were protesting against a plan to relocate some of their ranks out of Bangui to improve security. It was not clear whether anyone was hurt in Thursday's gunfire. Witnesses said both sides appeared to shoot into the air.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/central-african-republic-rebels-peacekeepers-trade-gunfire/2519679.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/central-african-republic-rebels-peacekeepers-trade-gunfire/2519679.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/13/us-centralafrica-violence-idUSKCN0IX1E320141113**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/13/us-centralafrica-violence-idUSKCN0IX1E320141113)

**Delay looms for elections next year**

Mediators in the Central African Republic say it will not be possible to hold national elections by February 2015, the date set last year. The government is now looking at a date in July, though observers say that also will be a challenge. The announcement about elections came after a meeting in Bangui of the International Contact Group for the Central African Republic, a body including senior representatives of the U.N., AU, United States, European Union, France and countries in the Central African region.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/delay-looms-for-car-elections-next-year/2519225.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/delay-looms-for-car-elections-next-year/2519225.html)

**Niger**

**Niger capital fires entire municipal police force over strike**

The mayor of Niger's capital has dismissed its entire 204-strong municipal police force after officers clashed with security forces during a protest over working conditions, officials said on Thursday. Municipal policemen blocked access to city hall on Tuesday during their 48-hour walkout, prompting Mayor Assane Seydou to summon a detachment of national security forces which used truncheons and tear gas to disperse the protesters. "The central mayor of the city of Niamey issued a decree dismissing the 204 agents of the municipal police for rebellion and indiscipline.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2833539/Niger-capital-fires-entire-municipal-police-force-strike.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2833539/Niger-capital-fires-entire-municipal-police-force-strike.html)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria’s main opposition party vows to fight Jonathan**

As Nigeria’s ruling party gathered this week to endorse President Goodluck Jonathan for a second term in office, the main opposition group, the All Progressives Congress (APC), is still deciding who its candidate is. The APC was created last year as a merger of several opposition groups. Its prospective presidential candidates include former military leader Muhammadu Buhari, former vice president Atiku Abubakar and the sitting governor of the northern Kano State, Rabiu Kwankwaso. The People’s Democratic Party has held power in Nigeria since the return of democracy in 1999. Incumbent Jonathan this week declared his intention to run under the party’s banner for a second term.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-main-opposition-party-vows-to-fight-jonathan/2519392.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/nigeria-main-opposition-party-vows-to-fight-jonathan/2519392.html)

**UN official wants international support in fight against Boko Haram**The UN's special representative for central Africa on Thursday called on increased international support in the struggle against Boko Haram, with thousands of Nigerians having fled and cross-border attacks on the rise. Bathily said he was launching "an appeal to the international community to mobilise more in support of states' efforts in the battle against this terrorist group, whose atrocities have caused a worrying stream of refugees in neighbouring countries." Between June and October, more than 17,000 Nigerians have arrived at a refugee camp in Minawao, northern Cameroon, he said.   
**AFP** - [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-official-wants-international-support-fight-against-boko-222336197.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-official-wants-international-support-fight-against-boko-222336197.html)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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