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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Experimental Ebola vaccine proves successful in human trial**

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The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa shows little sign of slowing down, which is why scientists worldwide are racing to develop a vaccine to end the growing public health crisis. On Wednesday, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a division of the National Institutes of Health, released promising preliminary data on a small study that examines the safety and efficacy of one experimental vaccine currently in development. The researchers found the vaccine elicited an immune response in 100 percent of the study's volunteers and did not cause any serious adverse side effects. "Based on these positive results from the first human trial of this candidate vaccine, we are continuing our accelerated plan for larger trials to determine if the vaccine is efficacious in preventing Ebola infection," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, said in a press statement. The findings of the VRC 207 Phase 1 clinical trial were published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study began Sept. 2 and was conducted at the University of Maryland at Baltimore's Center for Vaccine Development, involved 20 healthy adults, aged 18 to 50.

**CBS News** - <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/experimental-ebola-vaccine-successful-in-nih-human-trial/>

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russian troops giving 'backbone' to Ukraine rebels**

Russian forces are still operating in eastern Ukraine, providing the backbone of separatist rebels fighting the Kiev government, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe said on 26 November after talks with Ukrainian leaders. Asked for an assessment of the situation, Breedlove said Russian troops in the east were "training, equipping, giving backbone ...helping (separatist) forces in the field." Russia denies sending troops or equipment to the rebels but accuses Kiev of using indiscriminate force against civilians in the two eastern territories of Donetsk and Luhansk. He said that Russian forces were also helping the rebels "understand the advanced weaponry that is being brought across", referring to military equipment which Kiev and the West says is being funneled into Ukraine from Russia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/26/us-ukraine-crisis-nato-idUSKCN0JA17O20141126**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/26/us-ukraine-crisis-nato-idUSKCN0JA17O20141126)

**Ukraine**

**Pro-Western Ukraine Parliament Holds First Session**

Ukraine's parliament opened for its inaugural session Thursday since an election last month that ushered in a spate of pro-Western parties. Security was tight outside the building, which has been the focus of numerous rowdy rallies in recent months. The October election overhauled a legislature once dominated by loyalists of former President [Viktor Yanukovych](http://abcnews.go.com/topics/news/viktor-yanukovych.htm), who was ousted in February after months of protests.

A preliminary governing coalition was formed last week, uniting five parties intent on guiding [Ukraine](http://abcnews.go.com/topics/news/ukraine.htm) toward integration with Europe and possible eventual NATO membership. The new parliament draws together a colorful variety of political figures, including crusading anti-corruption campaigners, commanders of paramilitary units fighting Russian-backed separatists in the east, and remnants of Yanukovych's entourage.

AP – <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pro-western-ukraine-parliament-holds-session-27214565>

**Opportunists take advantage of leadership confusion**

Since April, when pro-Russian separatists took over government buildings across the industrialized eastern Ukrainian regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, a cast of characters has come and gone in the rebel leadership. In Perevalsk, a small mining city southwest of the rebel-held city of Luhansk under control since July of Cossack fighters from Russia’s Don River basin who came to the aid of the pro-Russian separatists when the Ukrainian forces fighting the rebels controlling the area began to gain ground. In a matter of months, the Cossacks had turned Perevalsk into their fief. Their chief said he has brought stability back to a city that had been ransacked by a corrupt government “calling itself Ukraine” and took credit for getting the city’s main services back up and running, including water, heat and electricity. Constantly surrounded by armed guards as he travels between his offices on the city’s main square, the Cossack chief said he has brought order and justice to the city of about 26,000. But more important than law and order is that his men are “reviving the city’s Cossack heritage and protecting traditional Cossack lands,” he said. It remains to be seen how the situation with Luhansk’s various leaders will play out. Some speak of being part of a greater independent territory called Novorossiya, or New Russia, which includes all of eastern and southern Ukraine.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2014/11/donetsk-ukraine-leadership.html**](http://america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2014/11/donetsk-ukraine-leadership.html)

EAP

**Afghanistan**

**British embassy vehicle hit in suicide attack in Kabul**

Five people including one British citizen were killed on Thursday in a suicide attack on a British diplomatic convoy in Kabul that left diplomatic staff and dozens of bystanders injured. The Afghan interior ministry said in a statement that the dead included four Afghans and one British citizen when a bomber on a motorcycle attacked on the Jalalabad Road in east of the Afghan capital, destroying three vehicles. The area was reported to be jammed with traffic. The British embassy in the Afghan capital has confirmed that at least one of their vehicles had been attacked and four people had been hurt. A spokesman for the British embassy said: “A British embassy vehicle was attacked today. There have been some injuries. “We are working with the relevant Afghan authorities.” The bombing happen around 10.30am local time. According to one report, a translator was among the dead.

**The Guardian** - <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/27/british-embassy-vehicle-hit-in-suicide-attack-in-kabul>

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| ChinaDeaths reported in China coal-mine explosion |
| Official news agency says at least 11 killed in Guizhou province in nation's second mine accident in as many days. At least 11 people have been killed in the second deadly coal-mine blast to hit China in two days. State-owned Xinhua News Agency reported that 19 people were working in a mine in the southern province of Guizhou when an explosion hit a shaft early on Thursday. The condition of the eight survivors remains unclear. Xinhua said the cause of the blast is under investigation. The disaster at the Songlin mine in the Guizhou town of Songhe follows one on Wednesday morning in the northeastern province of Liaoning in which at least 24 miners were killed and dozens of others left with serious burns. China's mines are the most dangerous in the world, although improved safety measures have considerably lowered death tolls in accidents. Last year, China recorded 589 mining-related accidents, leaving 1,049 people dead or missing, according to the government. But both the number of accidents and fatalities were down more than 24 percent from 2012. In June, 22 people were killed in an accident at a coal mine in the southwest city of Chongqing. And 20 people died in April when a coal mine in southwest Yunnan province suddenly flooded, leaving miners trapped.  **Aljazeera** **-** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/11/deaths-reported-china-coal-mine-explosion-2014112752624286804.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/11/deaths-reported-china-coal-mine-explosion-2014112752624286804.html) |

ESA

**Kenya**

**Mandera residents flee to army base**

Hundreds of people have fled to a military airstrip in Kenya's Mandera region amid fears that militants could launch a new assault. Many of them are non-Muslim civil servants who are demanding that the government evacuate them from the region. There are no reports of a specific threat, but many people in Mandera are worried that al-Shabab could strike again, especially as the festive season approaches. Six unions - including those representing doctors, teachers and civil servants - have advised members to leave until security forces can ensure their safety. The call could affect more than 10,000 teachers and 16,500 civil servants in major towns such as Mandera.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30192588**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30192588)

LAC

**Haiti**

**Cholera outbreak kills 132 people in 2014**

Haiti's cholera epidemic has killed 132 people and may have infected nearly 15,000 others so far this year, a OCHA report said on 26 November. The country's cholera outbreak started in 2010 and "an unacceptable number of people have been affected, with nearly 712,330 suspected cases and an estimated 8,655 deaths," the OCHA report said, citing Haiti's public health ministry. In 2014, there have been a suspected 14,869 cases and 132 deaths recorded, the report said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Haiti-cholera-outbreak-kills-132-in-2014**](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Haiti-cholera-outbreak-kills-132-in-2014)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Egypt to open Rafah crossing for 2 days**

Egyptian authorities will open the Rafah crossing with Gaza to allow thousands of Palestinians, stranded for weeks on the Egyptian side, to return home to the Strip, an official said Wednesday.

Nathmi Muhanna, director of Palestinian crossings and borders, told Ma'an that Rafah would be open on Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Jamal al-Shubki confirmed that he had received word from the Egyptian leadership that the crossing would be opened. The Palestinian Authority applauded the Egyptian decision to briefly open the crossing.

**Ma'an News** - <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=742828>

**Algeria**

**Army kills suspect in beheading of Frenchman**

Algeria’s military has killed a suspect in the abduction and beheading of Frenchman Hervé Gourdel in September, the Algerian Justice Minister said on 26 November. “It emerges from the investigation on the assassination of French national Hervé Gourdel that one of those who committed this murder, ... was killed by the army during an anti-terrorist operation in October,” the Algerian Justice Minister told state news agency APS. The Jund al-Khalifa fi Ard al-Jazayer claimed responsibility for the killing, saying it was in retaliation for France’s intervention in Iraq.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141126-algeria-military-kills-suspect-beheading-frenchman-herve-gourdel/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141126-algeria-military-kills-suspect-beheading-frenchman-herve-gourdel/)

**Egypt**

**Egypt court sends 78 youths to jail for pro-Morsi protests**

A court in Egypt has given 78 youths up to five years in prison for protesting with the Muslim Brotherhood.The boys, from 13 to 17 years old, joined rallies calling for the return of ousted President Mohammed Morsi.The authorities have cracked down on Islamists since President Morsi was removed by the military in 2013. Thousands of his supporters have been killed and arrested since the Muslim Brotherhood was declared a terrorist organisation. State media reported that the boys were arrested for "participating in protests calling for the downfall of the regime".

**BBC -** <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-30214861>

**Gunmen kill three soldiers in Sinai**

Three Egyptian soldiers, including a colonel, were shot dead by gunmen in northern Sinai on 26 November, the interior ministry said. Gunmen in a car ambushed the soldiers while they travelling in a pick-up truck in North Sinai’s provincial capital of el-Arish, the ministry added in a statement. The attack came several days after two policemen were killed in a roadside bombing at the entrance to the town.

**Al Arabiya -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/26/Egypt-Two-soldiers-one-officer-killed-in-an-attack-in-Sinai.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/26/Egypt-Two-soldiers-one-officer-killed-in-an-attack-in-Sinai.html)

## **Iraq**

## **Bus bombing claims lives in Baghdad**

## At least seven people have been killed in a bomb explosion inside a minibus in Baghdad's Sadr City neighbourhood, according to Iraqi police and medical sources. The blast on Thursday damaged a number of cars, wounding at least 10 people. Baghdad's predominantly Shia districts, of which Sadr City is one, are almost a daily target of bomb and suicide attacks. Two bombings - one at a market and the second on a commercial street - killed 10 people in Baghdad on Wednesday. A car bomb exploded at a commercial street in Sadr City, killing seven people and wounding 15 others, police officials said. Earlier, police said a bomb blast near an outdoor market in southern Baghdad killed three people and wounded seven others.

Many of the attacks on mainly Shia areas of Iraq are believed to be the handiwork of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), who consider the Shia to be heretics deserving of death. ISIL's capture of territory in June plunged Iraq into its worst security crisis since the 2003 US invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein.

**Aljazeera -** <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/bus-bombing-claims-lives-baghdad-2014112775524125812.html>

**Lebanon**

**Two Syrian refugee infants die of cold**

Two Syrian infants died from the cold over the weekend on the outskirts of the Lebanese border town of Arsal, where thousands of Syrians are living in unheated tents in freezing temperatures, Lebanon's Daily Star reported. A 3-day-old girl, identified as the daughter of Syrian refugee, died from pneumonia in a field hospital in Arsal, after spending two days in an incubator. "The baby was born in a tent in the vicinity of Arsal without proper medical attention and in cold weather, contracting pneumonia and inflammation around the navel," said a Syrian doctor at Arsal's field hospital. In a similar incident, another baby girl, born to a Syrian couple, arrived at Arsal's al-Rahma hospital after having died from the freezing weather, the hospital director reported. The second victim was born less than 48 hours earlier, he said. The two deaths occurred as Lebanon witnessed rain and snow storm that cut off roads in the mountains. The Lebanese Prime Minister launched a campaign to support efforts to help ease the burden on both Syrian refugees and their Lebanese hosts. The Lebanese Support Growth Fund Campaign to help the Supportive Environment for Syrian Refugees opened in downtown Beirut.

**Daily Star-** [**http://al-shorfa.com/en\_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2014/11/25/newsbrief-07**](http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2014/11/25/newsbrief-07)

**Syria**

**U.S. ‘horrified’ by Syrian regime raids**

The United States said Wednesday it was “horrified” by Syrian regime air strikes in the stronghold Raqqaa that killed at least 95 people, slamming the government for its “continued slaughter,” Agence France-Presse reported. The U.S. State Department condemned the strikes, and said the regime had no value for human life. “We are horrified by the reports that [President Bashar al-] Assad regime’s airstrikes yesterday in Raqa, Syria killed dozens of civilians and demolished residential areas,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement. “The Assad regime’s continued slaughter of Syrian civilians further exposes its callous disregard for human life.”  She said Assad had lost his right to rule, and said his actions should be held accountable.

**Al Arabiya News** - <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/27/U-S-horrified-by-Syrian-regime-raids-slams-Assad.html>

**UN seeks more cross-border aid deliveries to Syria**The UN Security Council will move to allow cross-border deliveries of relief supplies to Syria for another year, the president of the council said Tuesday, as new figures showed more Syrians were in need of aid. The Council in July agreed in a resolution to allow truckloads of much-needed aid to cross into rebel-held Syrian territory without the consent of the Damascus regime. The UN's top humanitarian aid official Valerie Amos asked the council to renew authorization for the aid deliveries that are due to end in January. While the convoys have not reached as many people in need as hoped, "they have made a difference," said Amos, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Aid. Over the past six months, 30 UN convoys carrying food aid, medical supplies, water and sanitation equipment have been sent from Turkey and Jordan.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2849461/UN-allow-cross-border-aid-Syria.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2849461/UN-allow-cross-border-aid-Syria.html)

**Yemen**

**Six people dead as militia attack tribal bastion**

Militiamen seized on 26 November the Sanaa headquarters of an influential tribe after overnight clashes that killed six people, sources from both sides said. The fighting erupted in a northern district of Sanaa, near the seat of power of the Al-Ahmar clan, which heads the powerful Hashid tribe, the sources said. A source said six people were killed in the fighting that raged all night and culminated with Houthi militiamen seizing the house where Al-Ahmar clan had its main headquarters. The house was initially the home of Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, the late leader of Hashid, and holds significant symbolism for the tribe. It was unclear how many people were present inside the house, which is adjacent to the homes of other key members of the Al-Ahmar clan, when the clashes erupted.

**MEE -** [**http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/six-yemenis-dead-shiite-militia-attack-tribal-bastion-60425112**](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/six-yemenis-dead-shiite-militia-attack-tribal-bastion-60425112)

SA

# India

**Soldier killed in Indian Kashmir in ongoing militant attack**

Militants attacked an army patrol in Indian Kashmir on Thursday leaving one soldier dead as fighting continued near the border with rival Pakistan, a security official said. The attack coincides with a regional summit in Nepal attended by the leaders of India and Pakistan, which threatens to end in failure because of rising tensions between the arch-rivals.The group of heavily armed militants attacked the army column near the town of Arnia in Indian Kashmir, about four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the undisputed, internationally-recognised border with Pakistan. Kashmir fighting kills an Indian solider after militants attacked an army patrol. "A soldier died in the initial attack and another was injured," said an army officer on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorised to speak to media. The rebels, suspected to have crossed from Pakistan, entered an "abandoned bunker" which Indian forces then surrounded, triggering the ongoing gun battle.

AFP - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2851500/Soldier-killed-Indian-Kashmir-ongoing-militant-attack.html>

# Girls hanged from tree died by suicide, say Indian investigators who rule out murder

# An investigation into the deaths of two teenage girls believed to have been raped and hanged by their attackers concluded that the two actually committed suicide, news reports said Thursday. Ranjit Sinha, the head of the Central Bureau of Investigation, India's version of the FBI, told Hindustan Times that the local police's probe into the deaths was conducted "erroneously." "Our probe found that the girls had committed suicide and weren't murdered," he told the newspaper. He gave no other details. Six months ago, visuals of the girls' bodies hanging from a tree in their tiny home village of Katra in Uttar Pradesh state, had shocked the country long inured to violence against women. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets to demand justice for the girls in scenes that were reminiscent of the public outrage that followed the December 2012 fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old woman aboard a moving bus in New Delhi, India's capital. At the time the local police had said that the girls were gang-raped and murdered. Five men had been arrested in connection with the deaths but later freed on bail. The CBI is scheduled to hold a news conference with more details later Thursday.

# AP - <http://www.startribune.com/world/284060691.html>

**Pakistan**

**IS pamphlets warning Pak tribesmen against spying for US surface in South Waziristan**

A pamphlet, ascribed to the Islamic State (IS) distributed in Wana area of South Waziristan, has sought the support of local tribesmen and warned them against spying for the United States, a report said. While extending support to IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the pamphlet vowed to clear Wana of U.S. supporters spying on the "holy fighters." It also warned locals against supporting and facilitating US drone strikes which have killed several Taliban and Al Qaeda jihadis since 2007, reported the Dawn.

[**ANI**](file:///C:\Users\opscen\Documents\ANI) - <http://www.bignewsnetwork.com/index.php/sid/227996345>

WCA

**Across Region**

**Cameroon army says frees 16 hostages**

The Cameroonian army has freed 16 hostages who were abducted by rebels from CAR in October, Cameroon's government said on 26 November. However, the rebel force, the Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC), said in a statement it had voluntarily handed over the group following the intervention of former CAR minister. The FDPC abducted a Polish priest on 12 October in western CAR, hoping to use him and 15 Cameroonian hostages as bargaining chips to secure the release of their own leader who was arrested in Cameroon in 2013. It said in a statement that it had released its captives at the former CAR minister's request as a gesture of good faith in a step towards possible political talks. It was not immediately clear if Cameroon had made any commitment about the FDPC leader's fate. The brother of one of the hostages said the hostages were released in two groups on 25 and 26 November in the towns of Baboua and Beloko where they were abducted in mid-October.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/26/us-cameroon-kidnapping-poland-idUSKCN0JA1B820141126**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/26/us-cameroon-kidnapping-poland-idUSKCN0JA1B820141126)

**CAR**

**Prisoners Take Over Jail in CAR Capital**

Hundreds of prisoners have taken over the main jail in the Central African Republic capital of Bangui. Security forces and international peacekeepers quickly surrounded Ngaragba prison, after which the United Nations mission in the country said the prisoners cannot escape. There may still be more than 700 prisoners inside the detention center, which was built to accommodate only 300 prisoners.

**VOA** - <http://www.voanews.com/content/prisoners-take-over-ngaragba-jail-in-car-capital/2535484.html>

**Mali**

# Ebola: UN crisis response mission opens new office in Mali

# The newest outpost of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) became operational today, while a new head of its Guinea office was named and the World Health Organization reported that the number of cases had stabilized in Guinea, had stabilized or declined in Liberia but may still be on rise in Sierra Leone. The World Bank Group’s Board of Executive Directors, meanwhile, approved a $70 million project for Côte d’Ivoire to promote the West African country’s pro-active measures to prevent the spread of Ebola.

# UN News Centre - <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49459#.VHb1j2hwamw>

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram kills 20 villagers near Chibok**

Suspected Boko Haram gunmen killed at least 20 people in an attack on two villages on the outskirts of Chibok, the town where more than 200 schoolgirls were abducted in April, said a Nigerian civilian defense officer. Attackers struck Kamtahi and Galtimari villages, burning houses and forcing residents to flee, a spokesperson of a Nigerian civilian militia, reported. "Virtually every house in the two villages were burnt to ash," he said. "The villages were totally razed down as residents fled for their lives, some with injuries." The Borno State police command spokesperson reported that he was not aware of the incident.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/boko-haram-kills-20-villagers-chibok-27200468**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/boko-haram-kills-20-villagers-chibok-27200468)

**Sierra Leone**

**Ebola burial workers dump bodies in pay protest**Burial workers in Sierra Leone have dumped bodies in the street outside a hospital in protest at authorities' failure to pay bonuses for handling Ebola victims. Residents said up to 15 corpses had been abandoned in the eastern town of Kenema, three of them at a hospital entrance to stop people entering. A spokesman for the striking workers said they had not been paid their weekly hazard allowance for seven weeks. Authorities acknowledged the money had not been paid but said that all the striking members of the Ebola Burial Team would be dismissed.   
**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/26/world/africa/sierra-leone-ebola/**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/26/world/africa/sierra-leone-ebola/)

**Togo**

**Opposition slams president over refusal to reform**

Togo`s opposition on 26 November slammed the President`s rejection of political reform before next year`s general election, but vowed to keep up the pressure on him to act. The President said on that he will not bow to demands to restrict the number of presidential mandates to two five-year terms. Currently, there is no limit on how many terms a president can serve. Police in Lome, last week fired teargas at protesters marching for political reform after they defied government orders not to approach the national assembly. Another demonstration has been called for this Friday, when members of 16 human rights organisations will take to the streets calling for institutional and constitutional reform.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/togo-opposition-slams-president-over-refusal-to-reform\_1505325.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/togo-opposition-slams-president-over-refusal-to-reform_1505325.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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