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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Sanofi says first dengue vaccine may be available in H2 2015**

Sanofi said on Monday that a late-stage clinical study showed that its dengue vaccine candidate met its main goal and was highly effective against severe cases of the disease. The French drugmaker's Sanofi Pasteur division intends to file for registration for the vaccine in several endemic countries next year, it said in a statement. "Subject to regulatory approval, the world's first dengue vaccine could be available in the second half of 2015," Sanofi said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141103200042-zirsp/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141103200042-zirsp/?source=search)

**United Nations**

**UN meeting seeks solutions for landlocked countries struggling with poverty**

Some of the world's poorest nations are landlocked countries, but barriers to the sea don't have to be barriers to trade, the UN's envoy for landlocked countries said on Monday. Global heads of business and government ministers gathered in Vienna for a UN conference to look for solutions to the economic challenges faced by developing landlocked countries. UN Under-Secretary General Gyan Chandra Acharya said while "landlockedness has its inherent challenges" the key to development and economic prosperity was strong regional co-operation and investment.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141103180910-o8w5c/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141103180910-o8w5c/?source=leadCarousel)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia backs Ukraine rebel vote despite West riticism**

Russia endorsed a crushing victory for Ukraine's pro-Moscow rebel leadership after controversial polls on Sunday that the EU slammed as a "new obstacle" for peace in the country's strife-torn east. The swift acceptance of the results by Russia looked certain to spark a diplomatic firestorm, with a fresh round of Western sanctions against the Kremlin now increasingly on the cards. Just prior to Moscow's announcement, the European Union's top diplomat Federica Mogherini had already decried the separatist vote as a "new obstacle on the path to peace".

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153668-russia-backs-ukraine-rebel-vote-despite-west-criticism**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153668-russia-backs-ukraine-rebel-vote-despite-west-criticism)

**Russia's border with Ukraine completely porous**

Russia's border with eastern Ukraine has softened to the point of becoming completely porous, while an internal Ukrainian dividing line hardens, NATO's top general said on Monday, cautioning about the risk of another "frozen conflict." US Air Force General Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, said he believed there were about 250 to 300 Russian troops inside eastern Ukraine helping train and equip Russian-backed forces.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141103212114-5r682/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141103212114-5r682/?source=jtTheWire)

**Russian convoy of 32 vehicles crossed into Ukraine**

A Russian convoy arrived to the Donetsk Border Crossing Point (BCP). A total of 32 vehicles were inspected only by the Russian border guard and customs services. The convoy consisted of 32 vehicles including 21 cargo trucks, 7 fuel trucks and 4 support vehicles. All the trucks bore the inscription “Humanitarian help from the Russian Federation.” The Ukrainian officers, stationed next to the BCP, did not take part in the inspection process but observed the crossing and took pictures from across the BCP fence where they were stationed. All the vehicles have crossed back into the Russian Federation. Since the arrival of the Observer Mission to the Russian BCPs, this is the fourth Russian convoy sent by the Russian Federation into Ukraine crossing through the Donetsk BCP.

**OSCE -** [**http://www.osce.org/om/126266**](http://www.osce.org/om/126266)

**Kyrgyzstan**

**Authorities sentence ethnic Uzbek leaders, in absentia**

A court in southern Kyrgyzstan has sentenced leaders of the Uzbek community to long prison terms in absentia after convicting them of involevemnt in deadly ethnic clashes in 2010. The Kyrgyz general-prosecutor's office said on 4 November that fugitive ethnic Uzbek community leaders from the cities of Osh and Jalal-Abad, Kadyrjan Batyrov and Inom Abdurasulov, had been sentenced to life in prison. Another leader, Karamat Abdullaeva, was sentenced to 16 years in jail. All three were tried in absentia by the court in Osh. They were found guilty in inciting interethnic hatred and organizing clashes between ethnic Uzbeks and Kyrgyz in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010.

**RFE/RL -** [**http://www.rferl.org/content/kyrgyz-uzbek-kadyrjan-batyrov-trial-sentence-life-in-prison/26673389.html**](http://www.rferl.org/content/kyrgyz-uzbek-kadyrjan-batyrov-trial-sentence-life-in-prison/26673389.html)

**Ukraine**

**President to ‘re-examine’ peace plan with rebels**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko threatened to tear up a peace plan with pro-Russian separatist rebels Monday after they defied Kiev and held elections intended to demonstrate their independence. “These [pseudo-elections](http://www.france24.com/en/20141101-ukraine-rebel-strongholds-prepare-controversial-vote-russia-donetsk-luhansk/) are a gross violation” of a September truce deal, he said in an address to the nation. The elections held Sunday were meant to lend legitimacy to two unrecognized statelets that rebels backed by Moscow have carved out in industrial eastern Ukraine during seven months of war. Russia, which denies Western accusations that its troops are actually taking part in the fighting, recognized the elections. European powers blasted Moscow’s support for what they said were illegitimate polls.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29891556**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29891556)

**France24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141103-ukraine-poroshenko-peace-plan-truce-rebels/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141103-ukraine-poroshenko-peace-plan-truce-rebels/)

**Rebel leader is sworn in, crisis deepens**

A pro-Russian separatist leader was sworn in on 4 November as the head of a self-proclaimed 'people's republic' in eastern Ukraine in a ceremony that worsened a standoff with Russia. Alexander Zakharchenko, who was elected in a rogue vote on 2 November that was denounced as a "farce" by Kiev and illegitimate by the West, took the oath to "honestly serve the interests of the people of the Donetsk People's Republic and conscientiously fulfil my duties." Kiev's pro-Western leaders fear that a new "frozen conflict" could now be created in its eastern regions and further threaten the territorial unity of Ukraine, which lost control of its Crimean peninsula in March when it was annexed by Russia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141104110448-h06uk**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141104110448-h06uk)

EAP

**Thailand**

**Authorities arm villagers to quell insurgency**

Thai authorities have distributed hundreds of assault rifles to village volunteers in the insurgency-battered south, in a move seemingly at odds with a pledge to find peace to a decade-long conflict within a year. In response to a recent slew of shootings and bomb attacks on civilian "soft" targets, Thailand has vowed to protect locals while it seeks a firm date for a fresh round of peace talks with the rebels. Some 2,700 Heckler & Koch HK33 assault rifles have been distributed over the past two months to volunteers in the region, according to a spokesman for the Internal Operations Security Command (ISOC). Authorities have doled out weapons before to Buddhist and Muslim villagers to protect remote hamlets from near-daily shootings. But rights groups have expressed fears that arming local volunteers promotes vigilantism in a region already scored by violence, suspicion and impunity for civilian deaths.

**AFP -** [**http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/441245/army-targets-2700-rifles-for-villagers**](http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/441245/army-targets-2700-rifles-for-villagers)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**Famine temporarily averted, but risks remain**

Aid and some small harvests have helped stave off a feared famine in South Sudan, but any more fighting there could still leave millions facing severe hunger next year, a senior WFP official said. The UN had warned in May that up to 4 million people would be on the brink of starvation by the end of 2014, after months of clashes threatened harvests and shut down aid programmes. Development agencies launched a huge appeal and the response, together with rainfall, meant that "what was speculated about famine ... (has been) temporarily averted," WFP's South Sudan deputy country director reported. He said that in the last few months of this year 1.5 million people are expected to be in crisis and emergency phases three and four on a five-point Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale where five is famine. But the number of people in those two phases was projected to rise to about 2.5 million in the first three months of 2015, he added. Last week rebels attacked Bentiu, Unity State, shattering months of relative calm during the rainy season when sodden roads make fighting and movement of equipment almost impossible. Diplomats have said the arrival of the dry season next month could trigger more fighting despite both sides committing to a ceasefire in May.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0IK1X920141104**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0IK1X920141104)

**Zambia**

**Riots force reinstatement of official**

Zambia's ruling party's secretary-general, has been reinstated after his dismissal triggered riots in Lusaka. The move on 4 November came after police and demonstrators clashed in protests against acting president, who dismissed the secretary-general on 3 November. The riots started on 3 November night in several places in Lusaka, including the University of Zambia and a government building designated as a place for the late President's mourners to gather, according to witnesses. Protesters had descended on the building, Belvedere Lodge, with stones, machetes and other weapons, and police fired tear gas into the venue to clear demonstrators from the area**.**

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/11/riots-after-zambia-president-sacks-official-2014114101549625291.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/11/riots-after-zambia-president-sacks-official-2014114101549625291.html)

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/riots-erupt-zambian-capital-26671366**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/riots-erupt-zambian-capital-26671366)

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL6N0SU08920141104**](http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL6N0SU08920141104)

LAC

**Across Region**

**Food prices in Latin America, Caribbean rise 1.2% in September**

The inflation of food prices in Latin America and the Caribbean rose 1.2% in September, 0.4% more than in August and one of the highest rates for any category in 2014, the FAO reported. In its monthly report on prices, the FAO said that the price of meat increased in September and influenced the overall rise in food inflation, while the price of potatoes declined in several countries of the region. A drop in overall food prices in September was seen in Costa Rica (0.5 percent), El Salvador (0.5 percent), Honduras (0.2 percent) and Nicaragua (0.7 percent). On the contrary, food inflation grew in Guatemala (0.2 percent), Mexico (1.0 percent), Panama (0.7 percent) and the Dominican Republic (0.7 percent).

**FAO -** [**http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/264317/**](http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/264317/)

**New Bahamas immigration policy detains children**

A new policy aimed at curbing illegal immigration in the Bahamas is leading to the detention of dozens of children, say Haitian activists who are calling the policy inhumane and disruptive to families. Activists say between 35 and 40 children are being detained inside the Carmichael Road Detention Center in Nassau after they were picked up along with their parents during a new round of immigration raids that began on 1 November. The raids coincide with a new policy that went into effect that same day. The policy makes it harder for undocumented migrants to live and work in the Bahamas, and requires nationals of other countries to have a passport. Most of the detainees are Haitians including 228 who are scheduled to be deported to Haiti on 4 November aboard two Port-au-Prince bound airplanes. They were picked up by authorities after before the policy went into effect.

**Miami Herald -** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article3546305.html**](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article3546305.html)

**Argentina**

**At least 1 dead, 5,200 evacuated due to storm**

At least one person died and more than 5,000 were evacuated due to an intense rain and windstorm that is still keeping Buenos Aires province and central Argentina on alert. So far, a total of 5,203 people have been evacuated in 19 districts in Buenos Aires that have been affected by the so-called "sudestada," a meteorological phenomenon that on this occasion has brought winds of more than 70 kph. The towns hardest hit by the storm have been La Matanza, with 1,100 people evacuated, followed by Lujan, where the river has risen to 4.77 meters and 350 people had to be moved from the area, according to figures provided by Argentine Cabinet chief at a press conference. The Plata River is still 1.5 meters above its normal level, a situation that caused flooding and damage to the towns of Tigre and San Fernando, as well as to Quilmes, Ensenada, Berisso, Lujan and La Matanza, all in Buenos Aires province. The storm alert is being maintained in the provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Misiones and Formosa, where heavy rains are expected, along with hail, powerful wind gusts and thunderstorms that also will be felt intensely in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Rio de la Plata. This is the second major storm the Buenos Aires area has suffered in less than a week.

**EFE -** [**http://www.efe.com/efe/noticias/english/world/dead-200-evacuated-weekend-argentina-due-storm/4/2060/2456162**](http://www.efe.com/efe/noticias/english/world/dead-200-evacuated-weekend-argentina-due-storm/4/2060/2456162)

**La Nacion -** [**http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1741111-hoy-no-va-a-llover-pero-quedan-5203-evacuados**](http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1741111-hoy-no-va-a-llover-pero-quedan-5203-evacuados)

**Bolivia**

**Concern over increase in sexual violence against girls**

Bolivia's ombudsman on 3 November expressed concern about the increase in sexual violence against girls in recent weeks, including a new rape-murder case involving a 4-year-old in a town in La Paz province. In a communique released by the Ombudsman's Office, he criticized the systematic refusal of the authorities to declare a national alert over the growing number of cases of violence - including murder - against women, which now are being perpetrated against girls as well. The Ombudsman's Office noted on 3 November that each year some 14,000 cases of rape against children and women are reported and that 34% of the country's minors suffer sexual abuse before they are 18.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/03/concern-in-bolivia-over-increase-in-sexual-violence-vs-girls/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/03/concern-in-bolivia-over-increase-in-sexual-violence-vs-girls/)

**Chile**

**Children mental health woes threaten development**

One in five children and teenagers in Chile shows signs of some mental health problem, a statistic that represents a risk to the country's development, according to the authors of a report released on 3 November. Nationwide, the suicide rate among people under 18 has doubled in recent years, to eight suicides for every 100,000 inhabitants. The study, part of the Chile 2014 Human Rights Report by Diego Portales University, points to shortcomings by the government in caring for the mental health of young people. Research overseen by a public health expert and children's rights attorney found that 38% of Chileans between the ages of 11 and 18 are affected by some psychiatric problem.

The study highlights an alarming situation in Calama, where 37% of youths ages 11 to 18 show signs of depression and 18% have attempted suicide at least once. To reverse the current trends, the study recommends the allocation of more resources to mental health care for the young.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/lifestyle/2014/11/03/report-kids-mental-health-woes-threaten-development-in-chile/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/lifestyle/2014/11/03/report-kids-mental-health-woes-threaten-development-in-chile/)

**Colombia**

**President seeks EU support for peace deal with FARC**

Colombian President Jose Manuel Santos on Monday began a whistlestop tour of Europe to drum up support for a possible peace deal with FARC rebels to end five decades of insurgency. His visit to six EU nations, starting in Spain, follows two years of peace talks in Cuba between the Marxist-inspired rebel group and Santos's center-right government. The two sides have reached tentative agreements on three of five major issues that could pave the way for a deal to end a bloody and lingering conflict. These include cooperation on wiping out the illicit drug trade, agricultural reforms, and the FARC's possible future in politics. Santos said they are now working on the two most sensitive issues: agreements on reparations for war victims and the disarmament and reintegration of the 8,000-strong FARC.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153778-colombian-president-seeks-eu-support-for-peace-deal-with-farc**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153778-colombian-president-seeks-eu-support-for-peace-deal-with-farc)

**Dominican Republic**

**At least 1 person dead, dozens of homes flooded by rains**

The torrential rains that have fallen on the northern Dominican region of Cibao left one person dead and have inundated at least 100 homes, besides unleashing floods across several provinces, emergency management services and regional authorities said on 3 November. Meanwhile, the emergency management office in Dajabon province reported that the cresting of the Masacre River had left more than 100 families homeless in the municipality of Loma de Cabrera. Emergency management officials in Dajabon and Loma de Cabrera reported that at least 78 homes were damaged, while the overflowing river swept away electrical appliances and other household goods. The flooding of the Masacre River also drowned farm animals including pigs, goats and poultry, while high winds knocked down trees and billboards in the northern part of the country.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2359303&CategoryId=14092**](http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2359303&CategoryId=14092)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis swears allegiance to ISIS**

Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, Egypt’s most active militant group, has sworn allegiance to Islamic State, a statement from Ansar said on 3 November night. Ansar had previously reported that it sought inspiration and advice from Islamic State. “After entrusting God we decided to swear allegiance to the emir of the faithful Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, caliph of the Muslims in Syria and Iraq and in other countries,” the statement said. Egyptian security forces face an insurgency that has killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen since last year. Last week the government declared a three-month state of emergency in parts of North Sinai following attacks that killed at least 33 security personnel.

**Al Arabiya -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/04/Egypt-s-Ansar-Bayt-al-Maqdis-swears-allegiance-to-ISIS.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/04/Egypt-s-Ansar-Bayt-al-Maqdis-swears-allegiance-to-ISIS.html)

**Iraq**

**Multiple attacks in Baghdad leave many dead**

Multiple attacks in Baghdad have killed at least 10 people and wounded dozens others, in a day that saw a spike of violence across the country blamed on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Police reported that two improvised bombs and a car bomb exploded on 3 November in the Tunis neighbourhood in the city's north, which is populated by many Shia Muslims. Three mortar shells also exploded in a Shia camp. In the Baghdad suburb of Nahrawan, police said a bomb also struck a group of Shia pilgrims, killing five people and wounding 11. Another bomb blast on a commercial street killed three people and wounded 11 others in Baghdad's western district of Amil, while a roadside bomb struck a western suburb, killing two soldiers. Police said three mortars landed on the edge of Baghdad's district of Khazimiyah late on 3 November, where thousands of Shia pilgrims were converging, killing five people, including some pilgrims, and wounding 17.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/multiple-attacks-baghdad-leave-many-dead-2014113132735830605.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/multiple-attacks-baghdad-leave-many-dead-2014113132735830605.html)

**Libya**

**Clashes at Benghazi port area**

Fierce fighting between the Libyan army and fighters belonging to armed groups in the city of Benghazi has killed at least 13 people, residents have said. Residents also said that warplanes and tanks were being used in the fighting near Benghazi's port. Meanwhile, Red Crescent medics said that they evacuated 53 foreign workers and 14 sick people trapped inside a hospital next to the port while the army moved more tanks and artillery into the city.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/fighting-rages-libya-benghazi-2014113212523382483.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/fighting-rages-libya-benghazi-2014113212523382483.html)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Gunmen kill five people, six suspects arrested**

Gunmen shot dead at least five people in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, state news agency SPA reported on 4 November, in what local residents said was an attack on Shi'ite Muslim worshippers marking one of their most important religious anniversaries. Whatever its motive, the raid late on 3 November in al-Ahsa district may test already strained relations between Sunnis and Shi'ites across the Middle East as it coincides with the annual Ashoura commemoration of Shi'ite Islam. An interior ministry spokesperson said six people had been arrested in connection with the attack in al-Dalwah village, SPA reported. A local rights activist said that the victims were mostly young men who were standing at the entrance of the local gathering place, known as Huseiniya, where the commemorative ceremony was taking place.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/04/uk-saudi-shooting-idUKKBN0IO01S20141104**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/11/04/uk-saudi-shooting-idUKKBN0IO01S20141104)

**Syria**

**Islamic State tortured Kurdish child hostages**

Islamic State militants in Syria forced children as young as 14 to watch videos of beheadings and beat them with cables during six months of captivity, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on 4 November. The Sunni Muslim militants abducted a group of children on 29 May as they returned to the Syrian town of Kobani after taking school exams in the city of Aleppo. It freed the final 25 hostages on 29 October. The abuse of more than 150 children, some held as long as six months, amounted to war crimes, HRW said, citing testimony from interviews with four boys among the group.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/11/04/syria-isis-tortured-kobani-child-hostages**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/11/04/syria-isis-tortured-kobani-child-hostages)

SA

**Across SA**

**India and Pakistan hold Wagah border ritual despite attack**

India and Pakistan have held a daily military ceremony at their only land border crossing, a day after a suicide attack there killed dozens of people. The bomb exploded near the checkpoint on the Pakistani side, killing at least 55 people and injuring many more. Punjab army corps commander Lt-Gen Naveed Zaman told those present at Monday's ceremony that they "proved that terrorists can't break the morale and zeal of the nation". Indian soldiers also took part on their side of the frontier. There were cheers on the Pakistani side but no spectators on the Indian side.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29876676**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29876676)

**Bangladesh**

**The Elders urge not to lower the minimum age of marriage for girls**

The Elders, a group of global leaders focusing on humanitarian issues, have called on Bangladesh not to lower the minimum age of marriage for girls to 16 years, saying it would be a step in the wrong direction. The impoverished South Asian nation has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, despite a three-decade-old law which bans marriage for girls under the age of 18.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141103170539-xcncp/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141103170539-xcncp/?source=jtOtherNews2)

**India**

**Maoist rebels shoot dead 7 villagers in the east**

Seven villagers were shot dead Monday by left-wing rebels on a road in a remote part of eastern India, police said, the latest violence in a long-running insurgency. The killings occurred around dusk in Jharkhand, a mineral-rich state with a significant tribal population that is one of a number of Indian states gripped by an ultra-left insurgency. "Maoist rebels have shot dead seven people near Redwa village" in Gumla district, Inspector General of Police Anurag Gupta told AFP by telephone from Ranchi, the state capital. Gupta blamed the attack on armed rebels belonging to a Maoist faction.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153779-maoist-rebels-shoot-dead-7-villagers-in-eastern-india**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153779-maoist-rebels-shoot-dead-7-villagers-in-eastern-india)

**Abused women break their silence using ATM-type kiosk**

The iClik is an ATM-type of machine -- located in the heart of her city -- where women could anonymously report crimes like sexual harassment, and take the first step towards ending the abuse. It is the brainchild of Joydeep Nayak, head of Odisha police's human rights unit, who came up with the idea after the high-profile gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old woman aboard a Delhi bus in December 2012. IClick empowers the women to report crimes and has been receiving around five complaints daily and most of them related to sexual harassment.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141103154937-ve6du/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141103154937-ve6du/?source=jtOtherNews2)

WCA

**Across Region**

**African Union names ex-Togo PM as Burkina Faso envoy**

The AU has named Togo's former prime minister as special envoy to Burkina Faso following the popular uprising that toppled Blaise Compaore, a statement said. AU commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma named Edem Kodjo as the AU special envoy late on 3 November, after the AU's peace and security council gave the regime two weeks to return to civilian rule. He will work to support "the rapid establishment of a civilian-led, democratic and consensual transition that would lead to the holding, at the earliest possible date, of free, fair and transparent elections," Dlamini-Zuma added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2014/11/04/african-union-names-ex-togo-pm-as-burkina-faso-envoy**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2014/11/04/african-union-names-ex-togo-pm-as-burkina-faso-envoy)

**Burkina Faso**

**African Union gives army two weeks to end military rule**

The African Union on Monday told Burkina Faso’s army that it must transfer power back to civilians within two weeks, following days of unrest that have left the military in charge in the West African country. “We ask the armed forces to transfer power to the civil authorities, and the council has determined a period of two weeks for the transfer,” Simeon Oyono Esono, head of the AU's Peace and Security Council said on Monday evening.

**France24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141103-african-union-gives-burkina-faso-two-weeks-end-military-rule/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141103-african-union-gives-burkina-faso-two-weeks-end-military-rule/)

**Army leader says to hand power to transitional body**

Burkina Faso's army will quickly cede power to a transitional government and appoint a new head of state, the country's interim President Isaac Zida said on Monday, looking to calm accusations that the military had seized power in a coup. Longtime president Blaise Compaore stepped down on Friday following two days of mass protests in the impoverished West African nation over his bid to extend his 27-year rule by amending the constitution.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141103123201-ykwmh/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141103123201-ykwmh/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**Hope and dismay in burned-out second city**

The town of Bobo-Dioulasso has seen a spasm of violence over the past week, mirroring events in Ougadougou, some 400 kilometres away. Just as the parliament building was stormed and set ablaze in Ougadougou, so the town hall in Bobo-Dioulasso was set on fire. The burned-out shells of two cars lie in the approach to the house of the mayor, which has also been gutted by fire. It looks as though a hurricane has torn through the court complex in central Bobo. Half a dozen buildings and many more vehicles are blackened wrecks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/hope-and-dismay-in-burkina-s-burned-out-second-city-615929**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/hope-and-dismay-in-burkina-s-burned-out-second-city-615929)

**DR Congo**

**Army clashes with 'rebels' blamed for massacres**

The Congolese army clashed Monday with suspected Ugandan rebels blamed for two massacres in which more than 40 people died in the Democratic Republic of Congo's volatile east, a senior official said. "There was contact today with rebels of the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) on the outskirts of the town of Beni, inside the Virunga National Park," the governor of the troubled North Kivu province Julien Paluku told AFP, saying that a hostage had also been freed. The rebels were "organizing themselves" for another possible attack on the town, he said, the scene of two massacres in almost as many weeks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153790-army-clashes-with-rebels-blamed-for-dr-congo-massacres**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/153790-army-clashes-with-rebels-blamed-for-dr-congo-massacres)

**Nigeria**

**Suicide blast kills 29 people prison attack frees 144**

A suicide bomber killed at least 29 people in a procession of Shi'ite Muslims marking the ritual of Ashoura in northeast Nigeria's Yobe state on 3 November, witnesses said. In a separate incident overnight in central Kogi state, gunmen using explosives blew their way into a prison in the city of Lokoja, killing one person and freeing 144 inmates, the prisons coordinator for the state reported. He said that 26 of the Lokoja prison inmates freed in the Kogi raid had been recaptured. In the suicide bombing in Potiskum in Yobe state, a territory at the heart of an insurgency by Boko Haram rebels, the attacker joined the line of Shi'ites before setting off his device as they marched through a market in the town, a resident said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/03/us-nigeria-violence-blast-idUSKBN0IN12020141103**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/03/us-nigeria-violence-blast-idUSKBN0IN12020141103)

**Boko Haram cuts hands off civilians for not following Sharia law**

Members of Nigerian terror group Boko Haram have cut off the hands of at least 10 people in the town of Mubi, Adamawa state, for not following it's interpretation of Islam's rules, according to the local media. The spate of corporal punishment was carried out on the group as it allegedly failed to comply with Boko Haram's form of sharia law implemented in the occupied territories. A witness reported that militants decapitated two people who voiced their opposition to the group's insurgence. The town of Mubi was captured by Boko Haram in October 2014, as part of the group's plan to expand its caliphate established during August 2014 in the town of Gwoza, near the border with Cameroon.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/nigeria-boko-haram-cuts-hands-off-civilians-not-following-sharia-law-1473047**](http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/nigeria-boko-haram-cuts-hands-off-civilians-not-following-sharia-law-1473047)

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