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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Chances of El Nino still 50 pct - Australian weather bureau**

Two climate indicators associated with an El Nino have strengthened over the past few weeks, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) said on Tuesday, although the weather bureau left the chances of the weather event unchanged at 50 percent. Parts of the equatorial Pacific Ocean have warmed over the past two weeks, the BOM said, while the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has now remained negative for several weeks, both signals of a possible El Nino. El Nino is a warming of sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific that occurs every four to 12 years and has far-ranging effects around the globe, particularly on food output.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923060325-4wo3j/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923060325-4wo3j/?source=search)

**United Nations**

**UN members endorse Indigenous Peoples rights**

The UN General Assembly on Monday approved a document strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide. The Outcome Document was endorsed by consensus at the start of the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The gathering brought together more than 1,000 delegates from indigenous communities along with various heads of state and UN officials. SG Ban Ki-moon said indigenous people are "central to our discourse of human rights and global development" and have an important role in the push for a more sustainable use of natural resources.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-members-endorse-indigenous-peoples-rights-203828587.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-members-endorse-indigenous-peoples-rights-203828587.html)

**UN puts spotlight on climate change**

With crises from Islamic State to Ebola competing for attention, the UN on Tuesday will zero in on climate change, giving leaders from 125 countries a platform to explain how they plan to address the issue. A huge march to call for international action on climate change, which brought as many as 400,000 people to the streets of New York on Sunday, set the tone for the summit spearheaded by UNSG Ban Ki-moon. The private sector also helped create a buzz around the summit, with corporate chief executives like Apple's Tim Cook and Ikea's Peter Agnefjäll declaring a variety of voluntary measures to reduce their carbon emissions.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923100029-p5pyw/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923100029-p5pyw/?source=jtTheWire)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**UNHCR bracing for possible exodus of 400,000 from Syrian town into Turkey**

UNHCR said on Tuesday that it was making contingency plans for all 400,000 inhabitants of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani to flee into Turkey to escape an advance of Islamist militants. Some 138,000 Syrian Kurdish refugees have entered Turkey in an exodus that began last week, and two border crossing points remain open, UNHCR said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923094628-p9rs2/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923094628-p9rs2/?source=jtTheWire)

**Ukraine**

**Rebels start withdrawing heavy artillery in Ukraine cease-fire**

Both government troops and pro-Russian rebels began withdrawing heavy artillery in the east of the country, Ukrainian officials said Monday, a significant step toward implementing an effective cease-fire in the region. Col. Andriy Lysenko, spokesman for Ukraine’s National Security and Defense Council, said Kiev’s forces had started withdrawing from frontline positions. He said the rebels had also begun their withdrawal of heavy artillery, although it was “not as massive as we expected.”

**AP-** [**http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/sep/23/rebels-start-withdrawing-heavy-artillery-in/**](http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/sep/23/rebels-start-withdrawing-heavy-artillery-in/)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**North Korea seizes Chinese fishing boat, demands fine: media**

North Korea detained a Chinese fishing boat and demanded a fine for its release, Chinese media reported on Tuesday, apparently the first such move in more than a year, risking further straining ties between North Korea and its only major ally. A boat from the northern China seaport city of Dalian, with six crew on board, was seized by North Koreans on September 12 while fishing in the Yellow Sea between China and the Korean Peninsula, the city government-run Beijing News reported.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-seizes-chinese-fishing-boat-demands-fine-092311449.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-seizes-chinese-fishing-boat-demands-fine-092311449.html)

**China**

**China court sentences Uighur scholar to life in prison for separatism**

A Chinese court on Tuesday sentenced to life in prison the country's most prominent advocate for the rights of Muslim Uighur people, his lawyer said, the latest sign of Beijing's determination to suppress dissent. Economics professor Ilham Tohti stood trial on separatism charges in the western region of Xinjiang last week. His case has provoked an international outcry in the West and among international human rights groups.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/china-court-sentences-uighur-scholar-life-prison-separatism-052723504.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/china-court-sentences-uighur-scholar-life-prison-separatism-052723504.html)

**Amnesty blasts China's torture tool industry**

Chinese production and export of police equipment primarily used for torture, such as electric shock wands and neck-and-wrist cuffs connected by a chain, has grown dramatically, enabling human rights violations at home and abroad, Amnesty International said in a report Tuesday. More than 130 Chinese companies, up from 28 about a decade ago, are now engaged in the development, production and export of law enforcement tools, most of which are legitimate, but many of which are inherently cruel and inhumane, the human rights group said.

**AP -** [**http://www.jsonline.com/news/usandworld/national/amnesty-blasts-chinas-torture-tool-industry6494341f3f4b47979cc553ef5208929d-276405871.html**](http://www.jsonline.com/news/usandworld/national/amnesty-blasts-chinas-torture-tool-industry6494341f3f4b47979cc553ef5208929d-276405871.html)

ESA

**Across ESA  
Polio outbreak in East Africa worries officials**A resurgence of the polio disease in the region has sent ripples of fear in the Ministry of Health. New cases of Polio have been registered in north eastern Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia and Central African Republic.   
**Daily Monitor -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Polio-outbreak-in-East-Africa-worries-officials/-/688334/2461842/-/3reqsl/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Polio-outbreak-in-East-Africa-worries-officials/-/688334/2461842/-/3reqsl/-/index.html)

**S. Sudan rebels open office in Kampala, urge regional leaders to speed up peace process**The rebel faction of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM-in-Opposition) led by the former vice-president, Riek Machar, has opened a liaison office in Kampala in order to promote relations between the rebel group and the Ugandan government. The newly established office will coordinate diplomatic relations, as well as humanitarian, peace and reconciliation initiatives in Uganda aimed at realising a peaceful and sustainable solution to South Sudan's ongoing crisis.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52488**](http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52488)

LAC

**Guatemala  
Eleven die in Guatemala village conflict**Eleven people were killed in San Juan Sacatepequez, a village west of the Guatemalan capital after clashes that saw residents turn guns on neighbour’s over plans to build a road and a cement plant, authorities said Monday. Police deployed 200 officers and 300 army personnel in a bid to deter further trouble. The conflict escalated because some in the indigenous community are being forced to leave their homes due to the construction, while others have been in favor of the plant and sold some land for the road.   
**AFP** - [**http://www.themalaymailonline.com/world/article/residents-turn-on-neighbours-as-11-indigenous-people-killed-in-village-conf**](http://www.themalaymailonline.com/world/article/residents-turn-on-neighbours-as-11-indigenous-people-killed-in-village-conf)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israel downs Syria warplane on Golan Heights**

Israel shot down a Syrian fighter jet on Tuesday as it attempted to fly over the ceasefire line into the Israeli-occupied sector of the Golan Heights, army radio reported. "This Syrian aircraft, apparently a MiG-21 (fighter jet), which was approaching the Israeli side of the Golan, was shot down by a surface-to-air Patriot missile," the radio said. The wreckage of the aircraft landed on the Syrian-controlled side of the strategic plateau, it added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148460-army-radio-israel-downs-syria-warplane-on-golan-heights**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148460-army-radio-israel-downs-syria-warplane-on-golan-heights)

**Israeli troops kill Hamas men blamed for slaying teens –army**

Israeli troops shot dead on Tuesday two Palestinians blamed for killing three Israeli youths in the occupied West Bank in June, the military said, an incident that had spiralled into a seven-week war in Gaza. Israel had been searching for Marwan Kawasme and Amar Abu Aysha, militants in their 30s from the Hebron area, for months. They were named as the men who grabbed and shot dead the three teens who were hitchhiking at night near a Jewish settlement on June 12.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923052124-lvodf/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923052124-lvodf/?source=search)

**Algeria**

**French citizen kidnapped in Algeria**

A 55-yr old Frenchman has been kidnapped by militants in the city of Tizi Ouzou where North Africa’s al-Qaida branch has a hideout. The security official said the man was hiking in the mountainous Kabylie region. In a video that appeared on social media, a masked member of a group calling itself Jund al-Khilafah, or Soldiers of the Caliphate, addressed the threat to French President Francois Hollande and said the hostage would be killed unless the airstrikes were halted within 24 hours. The group said it was answering a call by Islamic State spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani to attack Americans and Europeans.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-french-citizen-kidnapped-algeria-25678344**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-french-citizen-kidnapped-algeria-25678344)

**Libya**

**Libya's parliament approves new government**Libya's elected parliament approved on Monday a new cabinet proposed by Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni. The House of Representatives, which is recognized by the international community, agreed on a second cabinet list after rejecting last week an initial 16-member line-up as too large. The new cabinet has 13 ministers including three deputies for Thinni and no oil minister. The vital oil sector will be run by state firm National Oil Corp (NOC) as under Gaddafi. The Foreign minister will be Mohammed al-Dairi, a former senior UN official, parliament said on its website. There will be no defence minister with the chief of staff running the military.   
**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL2N0RN29820140922**](http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL2N0RN29820140922)

**Group of nations warns against outside interference in Libya**

A group of 13 countries, the EU and the UN on Monday called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire and political dialogue in Libya, rejecting any outside interference in the conflict-torn North African state. The group that issued the communique on the sidelines of this week's annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly included Algeria, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Britain, US, the EU and UN.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140922203848-g1lvx/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140922203848-g1lvx/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**UN proposes Libyan ceasefire and talks**

The UN, EU and a group of 13 nations have called for "an immediate, comprehensive ceasefire" in Libya, after the UN mission there proposed talks between backers of rival Libyan parliaments beginning next week. In a joint statement, the group on Monday said that rivals must "accept an immediate, comprehensive ceasefire," and "engage constructively in a peaceful political dialogue. There is no military solution to this conflict." The group of nations includes Egypt and the UAE, which were accused in August of launching and supporting air raids against militias controlling the Libyan capital Tripoli. The call comes after the UN support mission in Libya, UNSMIL, proposed that backers of rival governments in Libya hold talks in Algeria - the first such negotiations since a surge of violence that began in May.

**Al Jazeera-** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/un-proposes-libyan-ceasefire-talks-2014922204540728481.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/un-proposes-libyan-ceasefire-talks-2014922204540728481.html)

**Fighting, payment problems disrupt Libya's food imports**

Food prices have risen in Libya as payments problems, fighting and a breakdown in authority disrupt the usual import routes as the country spins out of control three years after the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi. Rice, vegetables such as tomatoes and juice have become more expensive by up to 10 percent in cities such as Benghazi, a major port, where violence has made it harder for suppliers to get their goods through, forcing importers to look for new ways to bring food in.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923110139-csd6h/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923110139-csd6h/?source=search)

**State of Palestine  
100,000 Gazans homeless after Israeli strikes**More than 100,000 Palestinians were left without a home to return to following the latest Israeli military operation in Gaza, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Flavia Pansieri said. Pansieri introduced a report on the Israeli onslaught in the Gaza Strip this past summer, noting that, by the end of the operation, "more than a quarter of Gaza's entire population, 497,000 people, had been internally displaced." "This summer's deadly escalation of hostilities in Gaza was only the most recent one in a series of repeated escalations over the past six years," Pansieri said.

**AA-** [**http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/393438--un-100-000-gazans-homeless-after-israeli-strikes**](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/393438--un-100-000-gazans-homeless-after-israeli-strikes)

**Palestinians to proceed with Gaza ceasefire talks - senior Hamas leader**

The Palestinian delegation to Gaza ceasefire talks in Cairo decided to proceed with the negotiations on Tuesday, a senior Hamas leader said, despite Israel's killing of two Hamas militants in the occupied West Bank. "After consultations within the Palestinian delegation and brothers in Gaza and abroad it was decided to continue the Cairo meetings," Mohammed al-Zahar told Reuters by phone from the Egyptian capital after a member of the team said it was considering withdrawing from the talks.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923094728-sxq9j/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923094728-sxq9j/?source=jtTheWire)

**Abbas to reveal plan at UN to end occupation**

This week Palestinian officials are busy working on different diplomatic tracks to push forward a new proposal at the UN to end Israel's occupation, work on internal divisions, and hold talks with Israel on cementing a truce in the besieged Gaza Strip. These efforts are taking place in Cairo starting Tuesday, and at the UN in New York City throughout the week, as the General Assembly gathers for its 69th session to discuss a wide range of issues; from Syria and Iraq to the Ebola crisis.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/abbas-reveal-plan-at-un-end-occupation-20149235745271899.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/abbas-reveal-plan-at-un-end-occupation-20149235745271899.html)

**Syria**

**Syria opposition welcomes US strikes, urges pressure on Assad**

Syria's opposition National Coalition on Tuesday welcomed US-led air strikes against the Islamic State group, but urged sustained pressure on President Bashar Assad's government. "Tonight, the international community has joined our fight against ISIS in Syria," Coalition president Hadi al-Bahra said, using an alternative acronym for the jihadist group. "We have called for air strikes such as those that commenced tonight with a heavy heart and deep concern... We insist that utmost care is taken to avoid civilian casualties," he added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148456-syria-opposition-welcomes-u-s-strikes-urges-pressure-on-assad**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148456-syria-opposition-welcomes-u-s-strikes-urges-pressure-on-assad)

**US strikes on Nusra Front in Syria kill over 50 -monitoring group**

The death toll from US strikes on al Qaeda-linked militants in northern Syria has risen to 50, a monitoring group said on Tuesday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said most of those killed in the strikes, which targeted fighters from the Nusra Front in the northern Idlib area, had been non-Syrians.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923100359-l4986/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923100359-l4986/?source=jtTheWire)

**Yemen**

**200 dead in wake of Sana’a clashes**

Ambulance workers have removed 200 bodies from the streets of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, since clashes between Houthi rebels and rival Sunni groups broke out last week. On Monday alone, ambulance teams recovered 53 bodies from the scene of violent clashes that preceded Sunday night's ceasefire agreement. Sana'a was reported to be calm the day after the Houthis, President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi and other political forces signed off on the UN-brokered agreement which will give the Shiite rebel movement seats in the cabinet for the first time.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/shiite-rebels-hold-key-sanaa-offices-yemen-peace-101703102.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/shiite-rebels-hold-key-sanaa-offices-yemen-peace-101703102.html)

**Huthi Rebels in Rare Clash with Qaida in South Yemen**

Shiite rebels who descended from northern Yemen to seize parts of Sanaa have clashed with al-Qaida-linked militants hundreds of kilometers south of the capital, a US monitor said Monday.

The rare clashes between the Huthi rebels and militants from the al-Qaida affiliated Ansar al-Sharia occurred over the weekend in the town of al-Dali, SITE Intelligence Group said in a statement. The fighting broke out on Saturday when militants captured and killed a businessman linked to the Huthis, SITE reported, citing a post from a Ansar al-Sharia news account on Twitter.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148427-huthi-rebels-in-rare-clash-with-qaida-in-south-yemen**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148427-huthi-rebels-in-rare-clash-with-qaida-in-south-yemen)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Taliban’s governors killed in drone strike**

A US drone strike killed three insurgents, including Taliban's shadow governor for western Herat province, Abdul Qadir, on Monday. Abdul Qadir was travelling in a car along with two bodyguards when he came under attack and was killed in the drone raid in Bakwa district.

**PA News -** [**http://en.news.af/2014/09/22/talibans-governor-killed-in-drone-strike/**](http://en.news.af/2014/09/22/talibans-governor-killed-in-drone-strike/)

**Two children wounded in Taliban clashes**Clashes between border police forces and armed oppositions wounded two children in Logar province. Taliban militants attacked on border police checkpoint in Baraki Barak district of the province, in which two children in a family wounded. According to the source, there were no casualties among border police forces, but the health conditions of the children are critical.   
**BNA –** [**http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/14207-two-children-wounded-in-taliban-clashes.html**](http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/14207-two-children-wounded-in-taliban-clashes.html)

**India**

**Landslides and floods kill 22 in India's northeast**

At least 22 people have died in flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains in remote northeastern India, officials said on Tuesday, in the second flood tragedy to hit the subcontinent this month. Rescue workers said 17 people died in the mountainous state of Meghalaya and five in Guwahati, the biggest city in the region. Authorities have deployed hundreds of rescue workers to the area. Pramod Kumat Tiwari, the head of Assam's Disaster Management Authority, said more than 50 villages were hit by flash floods in the Garo Hills district of Meghalaya.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140923072726-jv151/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140923072726-jv151/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**Nepal**

**Nepal must scrap 35-day limit on reporting rapes- HRW**

Nepal must scrap a 35-day time limit for reporting rapes that prevents victims from seeking justice, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday in a report on wartime sexual violence in the Himalayan nation. Both sides in Nepal's 1996-2006 civil war between Maoist guerrillas and the state were accused of serious human rights violations including rape, but no one has yet been prosecuted. The report is based on the testimonies of more than 50 women -- some of whom were just schoolgirls when they were attacked. It calls for the government to revise its 35-day time limit and to provide reparations to victims.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148458-rights-group-nepal-must-scrap-35-day-limit-on-reporting-rapes**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/148458-rights-group-nepal-must-scrap-35-day-limit-on-reporting-rapes)

WCA

**Across WCA  
Ebola outbreak toll crosses 2,700: WHO**The Ebola epidemic has now killed 2,793 in west Africa, WHO said on Monday, adding though that in Senegal and Nigeria the outbreak had been basically contained. WHO said a total of 5,762 people had been infected in five west African countries as of 18 September. Liberia has been especially hard-hit, with 3,022 cases and 1,578 deaths alone.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.timesofoman.com/News/40294/Article-Ebola-outbreak-toll-crosses-2-700-WHO**](http://www.timesofoman.com/News/40294/Article-Ebola-outbreak-toll-crosses-2-700-WHO)

**CAR**

**Unidentified militants kill Central African mayor**Dianga Fidele, mayor of the city of Ngaboko in the southern Central African Republic, was assassinated on Monday by three militants believed to belong to the ex-seleka militia. It is the third major act of violence to occur in the city within one month. Last week, 11 people were killed in an attack by Christian anti-balaka militiamen on a camp of Fulani, a predominantly Muslim tribe of shepherds. A subsequent revenge attack by the latter left 13 more people dead shortly afterward.   
**AA -** [**http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/393367--unidentified-militants-kill-central-african-mayor**](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/393367--unidentified-militants-kill-central-african-mayor)

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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