

# NEWS IN brief

## Mandela completes month in hospital

AP, Johannesburg  
Nelson Mandela has now spent a month in the hospital. South Africa's anti-apartheid hero was admitted June 8 for a recurring lung infection. A month later the former president has seen an outpouring of love and support from South Africa and around the world. He remains on life support.  
Mandela spent 27 years in prison during white rule. He led the tense shift from apartheid to democracy two decades ago in a spirit of reconciliation.

## Egypt forces raid Al Jazeera's office

REUTERS, Cairo  
The Qatari-owned media company Al Jazeera yesterday reported that Egyptian security forces had raided its Cairo office.  
However, a spokesman for the channel in Doha said that its Cairo bureau chief was taken in for questioning yesterday, but had been released. He said he was not aware of any raid.

## Koreas agree to reopen joint zone

AFP, Seoul  
North and South Korea yesterday made a crucial step forward in winding down months of high tension, agreeing to reopen a joint industrial zone seen as the last remaining symbol of cross-border reconciliation.

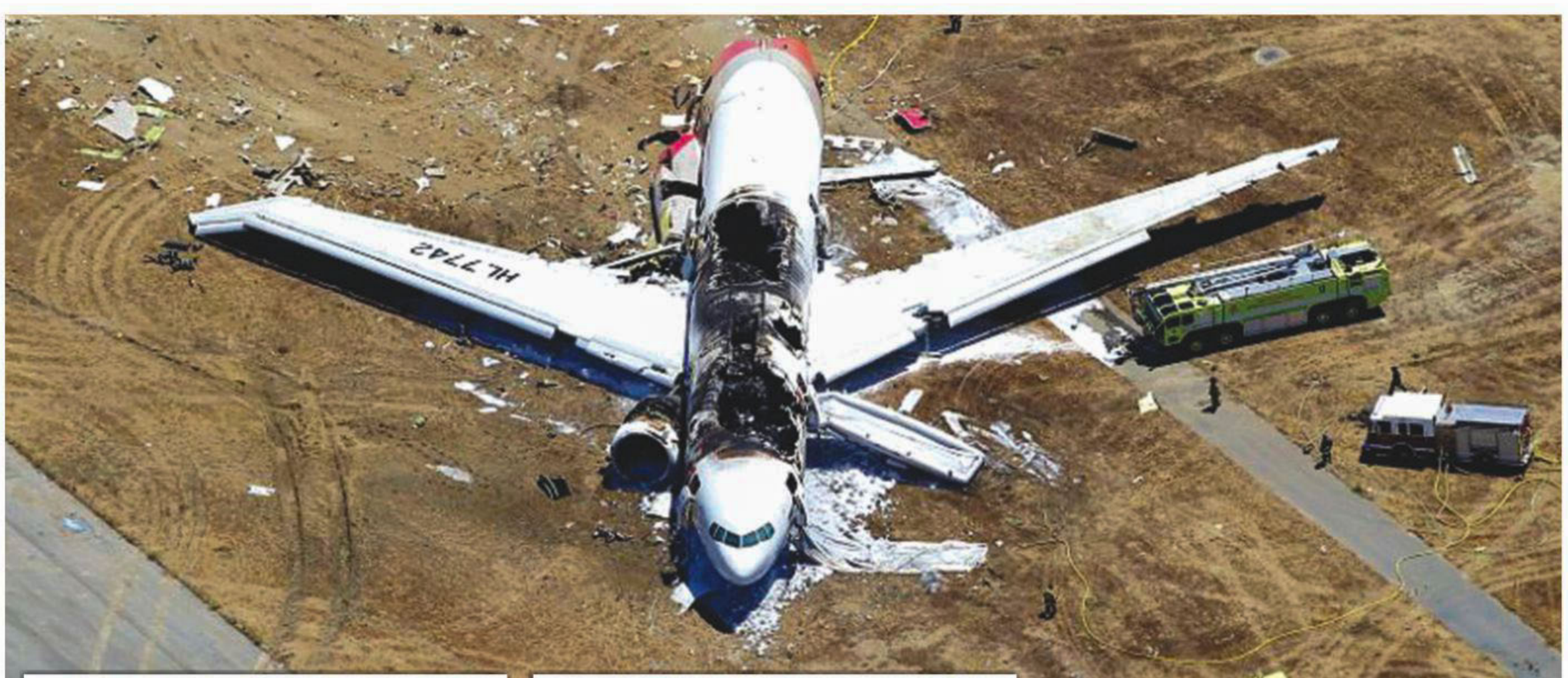
At the end of a gruelling 15-hour talk, the two sides said in a joint statement that they had agreed to let South Korean firms restart their shuttered plants at the Kaesong complex near the border when conditions are ripe.

## Pakistan to release Indian prisoners

TNN, Amritsar  
Pakistan government will release two Indian prisoners lodged in a Karachi jail today, said Pakistan's former federal minister for human rights Ansar Burney. They would be handed over to Indian authorities tomorrow.

## 6 Maoists killed in India

IANS, Maharashtra  
Six Maoists were shot dead in a gunfight with police in the thick Etopally forests in this Maharashtra district yesterday morning, an official said.  
Security forces were on alert following a tip-off on Maoist movements expected in the vicinity since Friday night. The gunfight was sparked off after a police party engaged in combing operations in the area came under attack from the rebels.



Picture 1 and 2 show an Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 after it crash landed on the runway at San Francisco International Airport in USA on Saturday. 3. People running out of the aircraft just after the crash landing. Two people died in the crash. Most of the 307 people on board were injured, 49 of them seriously. PHOTO: AFP

## 3 killed, 80 missing in Canada train blaze

AFP, Lac Megantic  
At least 80 people are missing after a driverless oil tanker train derailed and exploded in the small Canadian town of Lac-Megantic, destroying dozens of buildings, a firefighter back from the scene told AFP Saturday.  
The accident in the small Quebec town, located around 250 kilometers east of Montreal, created a spectacular fireball and forced 2,000 people from their homes.  
Officials earlier only confirmed three fatalities, but had warned of "many more" fatalities.  
The firefighter said on condition of anonymity that there had been at least 50 people in one bar that was consumed by the flames.  
Witnesses reported as many as six explosions after the train derailed at about 1:20am in Lac-Megantic, a picturesque resort town of 6,000 residents near the border with the US state of Maine.

# Egypt's political process stalls over interim PM

### ElBaradei urges to include Brotherhood in transition process

AGENCIES  
The choice of Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei as Egypt's interim premier hit opposition within the coalition that backed Mohamed Morsi's overthrow, as supporters and opponents of the deposed Islamist president planned rival rallies Sunday.  
The official MENA news agency said on Saturday that caretaker president Adly Mansour had appointed the outspoken liberal opponent of Morsi, only for his office to later deny any final decision had been taken.  
Reporters had already assembled at the presidential palace for promised statements from Mansour and ElBaradei which were then abruptly called off.  
Salafi Islamists, who gave their backing to Morsi's overthrow in a military coup on Wednesday, were holding out against ElBaradei's appointment, officials close to the talks told AFP.  
Presidential adviser Ahmed al-Muslimani said



ElBaradei, the former head of the UN nuclear watchdog, remained the "strongest candidate." "He is on top of the list of names," Muslimani told AFP.  
But by yesterday morning, after another round of talks, a senior Salafi politician said his Al-Nour party would not accept ElBaradei.  
Meanwhile, the presidency held out an olive branch to Morsi supporters in the Brotherhood calling them to join the transition as its leaders vowed to press protests rejecting his ouster.  
ElBaradei also called for the Muslim Brotherhood to be included in Egypt's political future.  
"I am calling for inclusion of the Brotherhood in the democratisation process," he said in comments printed in German. "No one should be taken to court without a convincing reason. Former president Morsi must be treated with dignity," he added, calling such principles "preconditions for national reconciliation."

# 'Terror' strikes Buddhism's holiest site in India

AFP, Patna  
Multiple small bomb blasts at one of Buddhism's holiest sites -- the Bodhi Gaya temple complex in eastern India -- wounded two monks yesterday, but the historic temple itself was not damaged, police said.  
The Indian government called the blasts a "terror attack" after eight bombs exploded at the complex in Bihar state, which attracts Buddhists and other visitors from all over the world.  
No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but police said they earlier warned officials that Islamic militants could target the site, as revenge for Buddhist violence against Muslims in neighbouring Myanmar.  
"Eight low-intensity serial blasts took place early this morning, injuring two people," said senior police official SK Bharadwaj.  
Two more bombs were found and defused inside the complex, one of them near the temple's celebrated 80-foot-tall (24-metre) statue of the Buddha, Bharadwaj told AFP.  
Along with temples, dozens of monasteries,

# Syria's opposition picks new leader

AFP, Istanbul  
Syria's main opposition has elected Ahmad Assi Jarba to lead the movement, which groups opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, spokesman Khaled Saleh said.  
The news came Saturday in Istanbul, where the Syrian National Coalition is based, while on the ground in Syria fierce fighting continued as the army pressed forward with an assault on rebel-held districts.  
Jarba, who represents the faction of veteran secular dissident Michel Kilo and who is seen as close to Saudi Arabia, obtained 55 votes in the deeply divided Syrian National Coalition on Saturday.  
He edged out the group's secretary general Mustafa al-Sabbagh, who

obtained 52 votes in the second round of balloting at the group's meeting in the Turkish city of Istanbul.  
The opposition had been rudderless since the departure in May of Ahmad Moaz al-Khatib in protest at the world's "inaction" over Syria's civil war.  
Syria rebels' Western sympathisers, France, USA was swift to congratulate Jarba on his win, saying that his election reinforced the coalition as "the legitimate representative of the Syrian people".  
On the ground, intense fighting in the central Syrian city of Homs has left 60 to 70 percent of a besieged rebel-held district damaged, destroyed or uninhabitable, a monitoring group said yesterday.



Aloitadores" (fighters) struggle with a wild horse during the "Rapa Das Bestas" (Shearing of the Beasts) traditional event in the Spanish northwestern village of Sabucedo yesterday. During the 400-year-old horse festival, hundreds of wild horses are rounded up from the mountains, trimmed and groomed. PHOTO: AFP

## Qatada deported to Jordan

CNN ONLINE  
Radical cleric Abu Qatada was deported early yesterday by Britain to Jordan, where he is wanted on terror charges, the British Home Office said. The move ended a years-long legal battle to force the Jordanian national to leave the country.  
Abu Qatada was tried and convicted in absentia in Jordan in 1999 on two charges of conspiracy to cause explosions, court documents say. Britain has been trying to deport Abu Qatada since 2005, but his legal appeals have kept him in the country.  
Jordan will hold a fair trial for Qatada for alleged terrorist attacks in 1999 and 2000, government spokesman Mohammed Al-momani told the official Petra News Agency.  
UK authorities accuse Abu Qatada of raising funds for terrorist groups, including organizations linked to the late al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.  
Videos of his preaching were found in a German apartment used by some of those involved in the 9/11 attacks on the US, including ringleader Mohammed Atta. Abu Qatada has denied the allegations against him.

# Human guinea pigs of India

## India's poor 'duped' into illegal clinical drug trials

AFP, New Delhi  
Niranjan Lal Pathak couldn't believe his luck initially. When a doctor at a hospital in central India offered the factory watchman free treatment for a heart complaint, he jumped at the chance.  
It was five years ago and the family of the 72-year-old says he didn't realise that the Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital in the city of Indore was about to enroll him in a trial of an untested drug.  
"We were told that our uncle will be treated under a special project," his nephew Alok Pathak told AFP over the phone from Indore, the largest city of Madhya Pradesh state.  
"The doctor said we wouldn't have to spend a penny. There was only one condition placed before us -- that we should not approach local chemists if we ever ran out of his medicines but go straight to the doctor," he said.  
A petition filed by the family in India's Supreme Court alleges that the drug tested on him was Atopaxar, developed by Japan-based pharmaceutical company Eisai and supposed to treat anxiety disorders.  
His family and health rights group



Niranjan Lal Pathak  
Swasthya Adhikaar Manch (Health Rights Platform) say that he would never have enrolled for the trial had he known that an untested drug would be administered. The family also claims that the side-effects of the drug left Pathak suffering from dementia.  
Many desperate and poor people in India are unwittingly taking part in clinical trials for drugs by Indian and multinational pharmaceutical companies that outsource the work to unregulated research organisations.  
The record of Pathak's treatment was maintained on a medical card and his family is now fighting a legal battle, one of scores of cases brought by peo-

ple who say they are victims of illegal trials.  
Testing pharmaceuticals on humans is a mandatory and expensive step for drug companies who must prove to regulatory authorities that treatments have no dangerous side-effects in order to bring them to market.  
The Confederation of Indian Industry estimates that companies save up to 60 percent by undertaking the different phases of testing a new drug in India as compared to developed countries.  
Health campaigner Amulya Nidhi says the lack of strict regulations has prompted many pharmaceutical companies to look to India and other developing countries for the tests.  
The legal case in the Supreme Court, which began in February last year, has helped to bring to light many of the alleged misdeeds by doctors in connivance with pharmaceutical companies.  
"There has to be some sense of responsibility. Human beings are treated like guinea pigs," Supreme Court judges RM Lodha and AS Dave said last year in a written statement.

## Kerry to return to ME this week

AFP, Jerusalem  
US Secretary of State John Kerry is to return to the Middle East later this week to resume efforts to draw Israel and the Palestinians back into direct negotiations, reports said yesterday.  
According to the top-selling Yediot Aharonot daily and the left-leaning Haaretz, Kerry was to arrive in Israel towards the end of the week on what would be his sixth visit to the region in as many months.  
On his previous visit, a four-day trip which ended on June 30, Kerry held hours and hours of intensive talks with both sides in a mission which he said had achieved "real progress."  
But the Palestinians said there had been "no breakthrough" that could lead to a resumption of direct negotiations following a hiatus of nearly three years.  
In his absence, Kerry left behind two aides to continue his work. Frank Lowenstein, his senior adviser on the peace process, has been meeting "almost daily" with Israeli negotiators Tzipi Livni and Yitzhak Molho as well as with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat, Haaretz said.  
"Lowenstein is trying to get the parties to agree to a document that would contain the principles for the renewal of talks but no agreement has emerged," the paper said.

**ODDLY enough**  
£700,000 a year on cognac!  
World leaders & their favourite drinks  
MAIL ONLINE  
North Korea's late leader Kim Jong-Il was reportedly the biggest client for cognac brand Hennessy and spent £700,000 on the drink.  
The fact was dug out in research into leaders' favourite tipples, which has suggested politicians success might have something to do with their preferred drink.  
Some of the UK's top leaders have all opted for whisky, while across the Atlantic in America, they have a sweeter tooth, preferring a cocktail.  
The research, carried out by online drinks firm 31DOVER.com, revealed that Churchill, Thatcher, Blair and Cameron have all shown a mutual affection for whisky, with Churchill setting himself up for a day of success by rounding off breakfast with a whiskey soda.  
Margaret Thatcher was well known for her fondness for Bell's.  
Whisky also worked its magic for David Cameron. He enjoys Bruichladdich's organic single malt, priced at £41 a bottle.  
While whisky has helped politicians prosper, pints have led MPs to their peril, the researcher claim. John Major, David Milliband and John Prescott all have a passion for a pint but have faced troubles in their political career.