

# NEWSIN brief

## LatAm's first pope heads to Brazil

**AFP, Rio De Janeiro**  
 Bringing his message of a "poor Church for the poor," Pope Francis headed for Brazil yesterday to find a country facing a shrinking Catholic flock and anger over government waste. Francis left Rome for Rio de Janeiro shortly before 0700 GMT, embarking on his first foreign trip abroad since becoming pontiff. Pilgrims from around the world were gathering in Rio for World Youth Day to greet the first pope.

## Blast targets Myanmar monk

**AFP, Yangon**  
 A small blast near an event hosted by a radical Myanmar monk who stands accused of inflaming Buddhist-Muslim tensions has left 5 people injured in Mandalay, police said yesterday. The cleric, Wirathu, confirmed the incident and blamed "the minority" linked to an article in Time magazine, which highlighted his anti-Muslim sermons as a key factor in inciting a wave of deadly religious violence this year.

## Apple software developers site hacked

**AFP, New York City**  
 Computer and software giant Apple said Sunday that it took its software developers website offline after it was hacked, warning that personal information about them may have been stolen. The information technology giant said in a statement titled "We'll be back soon" that they made the hack attack known "in the spirit of transparency."

## Cambodia bars opposition chief from poll

**AFP, Phnom Penh**  
 Cambodia's newly returned opposition leader cannot be a candidate in upcoming polls, election authorities ruled yesterday, rejecting his application to stand against strongman Premier Hun Sen. Sam Rainsy, who was greeted by huge crowds on Friday after his return from self-imposed exile in France, "did not fulfil the conditions in the process of registering candidates", National Election Committee said in a letter.



# KATE GIVES BIRTH TO BABY BOY

**AFP, London**  
 Prince William's wife Kate gave birth to a baby boy yesterday, providing Britain's royal family with a future king in an event that had been anticipated around the world, Kensington Palace said. Crowds cheered and rushed towards the gates of Buckingham Palace as it was announced that the Duchess of Cambridge had produced a male heir weighing 8lbs 6oz (3.8 kilos). The baby will be third in line to the throne and in the direct line of succession after head of state Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son and heir Prince Charles, and then his eldest son William. "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge was safely delivered of a son at 4:24 pm (1524 GMT)," Kensington Palace said in a statement just over four hours afterwards. "The baby weighs 8lbs 6oz. The Duke of Cambridge was present for the birth." The boy's name was not revealed, but he will be known as Prince of

Cambridge. The former Kate Middleton was admitted to the private Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, central London, at around 6:00 am in the midst of a summer thunderstorm. The birth was later officially announced to great cheers on a golden easel placed in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. US President Barack Obama's spokesman had earlier said that he and the first family were "waiting with anticipation" for the birth and "wish the family and all of Great Britain well on this pending momentous occasion. Both mother and son were "doing well" and will remain in hospital overnight while the queen was "delighted with the news", according to the palace. Bookmakers had largely backed a girl baby, after Kate had said they did not know its sex. The fact that it is a boy relieves the need to rush through new succession laws across the 16 Commonwealth

realms, which would mean that a girl could no longer be overtaken by any future younger brothers. The royal couple used a back entrance to the hospital when they arrived at 6:00am, missing the ranks of international media who have camped outside the hospital for three weeks. The prince was born in the same hospital wing and media from across the globe are hoping for a repeat of the scene in 1982 when Charles and his first wife Diana brought out the baby to show him off to the world. Royal fanatics gathering outside the hospital also took their excitement to a new level. The new arrival is Queen Elizabeth's third great-grandchild, and a first grandchild for Charles. It ensures that there are three generations of heirs to the crown of the United Kingdom of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland -- a nuclear-armed UN Security Council permanent member and the world's sixth biggest economy.



**1 Prince William and his wife pose after their marriage in 2011. 2. Charles and Diana shows off their newborn son William in 1982.**



## Alexandra for a girl, George for a boy

**MAIL ONLINE**  
 The impending birth was good news for bookmakers as thousands of people have rushed to place bets on everything from the baby's name to its due date, weight, gender and eye colour. Most wanted to bet on the baby's name, and bookies said George and Alexandra are the hot favourite names for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's baby. Other strong contenders from the Duke's family include Elizabeth, Diana, Charles and Philip. Bookmakers also said punters - who have spent an estimated £1m betting on the baby - were expecting the baby to be a girl, weighing between 7lb-7lbs 15oz, and to have brown hair. Once the baby is born the Queen will be informed of the chosen names before they are announced officially, but she is unlikely to exercise her veto. In the past, the approval of the sovereign has held great importance. When the Duke and Duchess of York had their second daughter Princess Margaret Rose in 1930, they were planning to call her Ann Margaret, but changed their mind after learning that King George V disliked the name Ann. Royal babies' names are not usually revealed straight away and the public are often left guessing for several days as speculation mounts. A baby girl is favourite, with odds of 1-2, while the odds on it being a boy are 6-4, a betting house said yesterday.



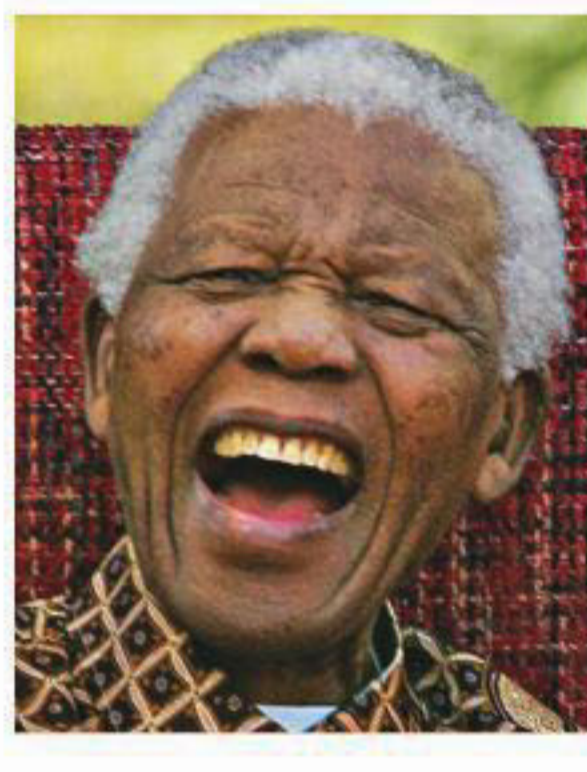
**US Vice President Joe Biden, centre, his wife Jill Biden, left, and Tara Gandhi, grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi, look on during his visit to Gandhi Smriti, an Indian museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday. Biden arrived in India yesterday at the start of a four-day visit designed to revive momentum in flagging diplomatic ties and fire up bilateral trade.**

## Dubai pardons Norwegian in rape case

**AFP, Dubai**  
 A Norwegian woman in a rape case in Dubai dating back to March said she was pardoned yesterday of an extramarital sex charge and allowed to fly home. "I was told that I've been pardoned," Marte Dalelv, 24, told reporters outside a court in the Muslim emirate, adding that her passport had been returned and she would leave the Gulf state "as soon as possible". Dalelv had risked 16 months in jail after she reported being raped by a co-worker in the UAE. Dalelv reported the rape to police back in March and was immediately detained, being released four days later with the assistance of Norwegian diplomats.

## Mandela improving

**AFP, Johannesburg**  
 Nelson Mandela's condition continues to improve, the South African government said yesterday, six weeks after he was admitted to hospital with a recurring lung infection. "Former President Mandela is still in a critical condition in hospital but shows sustained improvement," President Jacob Zuma's office said. In another upbeat statement, the presidency also thanked South Africans and the world for the outpouring of support that marked Mandela's 95th birthday last week. Earlier, Mandla Mandela reported that his grandfather was "steadily improving." Mandla, who is embroiled in a bitter spat with family members over his grandfather's burial site, visited Mandela's Pretoria health facility on Sunday. "The visit left me with a warm feeling because my grandfather is getting stronger and stronger every day," he said. Mandela's current hospital stay is his longest since he was released from prison in 1990, after serving 27 years under the apartheid regime.



## Morsi's family accuses army of kidnapping

**AFP, Cairo**  
 The family of Mohamed Morsi is to take legal action against Egypt's army chief, General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, for "kidnapping" the Islamist president, his daughter said yesterday. "We are taking local and international legal measures against Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the leader of the bloody military coup, and his putschist group," Shaimaa Mohamed Morsi told reporters. "We hold the leader of the military group and the whole of his putschist group responsible for the health and safety of president Morsi," she added at the family's press conference in Cairo. Morsi has been detained at an unknown location since his overthrow by the army on July 3 following mass protests against his presidency across the country. Several countries, including the United States and Germany, have called for his release. But country's interim authorities have rejected these calls, saying that he is being held in a "safe place". Authorities questioned Morsi on July 4 over his 2011 escape from prison during the revolution that toppled former dictator Hosni Mubarak, judicial sources said.

## Fierce assaults on Iraq prisons kill 41

**AFP, Baghdad**  
 Iraqi militants stormed two prisons, including the notorious Abu Ghraib, sparking clashes that killed 41 people and freeing at least 500 inmates, officials said yesterday. The coordinated attacks on Taji prison, north of Baghdad, and Abu Ghraib, west of the capital, were launched on Sunday night and raged for around 10 hours, officials said. Abu Ghraib prison, already infamous as a centre for the torture of opponents of now executed dictator Saddam Hussein's regime, gained new notoriety under the US-led occupation when graphic pictures emerged of the abuse of prisoners. "About 500 prisoners escaped from Abu Ghraib prison," Hakem al-Zamili, a member of the parliamentary security and defence committee, told AFP. Zamili said that, to his knowledge, no inmates escaped from the prison in Taji. But MP Shwan Taha, also a security and defence committee member, said in an online statement that between 500 and 1,000 inmates escaped from the two prisons. Officials said at least 20 members of the security forces were killed and 40 wounded in the attacks. And the justice ministry's spokesman said that 21 inmates were killed and 25 wounded during rioting at the prisons. It was not immediately clear how many of the militants who attacked the prison were killed, wounded or captured. The attacks were launched at around 9:30pm on Sunday when the militants fired mortar rounds at the prisons. Four car bombs were detonated near the entrances to the jails, while three suicide bombers attacked Taji prison, a police colonel said. Five roadside bombs also exploded near the prison in Taji.

## EU blacklists Hezbollah

**AFP, Brussels**  
 EU foreign ministers yesterday agreed to blacklist Hezbollah's armed wing, holding it responsible for attacks in Europe. "Agreement reached to list Hezbollah," an EU diplomat said, as ministers overcame reservations in some member states that such a move would further destabilise Lebanon where the militant group plays a major role. To do so, ministers agreed that EU political and economic links with Lebanon would be maintained. They also highlighted the fact that it is the military wing alone that is blacklisted after Hezbollah was blamed for a deadly attack on Israeli tourists in Bulgaria last year. On Thursday, Lebanon asked Brussels not to blacklist Hezbollah on the grounds the militant group was an "essential component of Lebanese society." Hezbollah, which is close to Iran, is Israel's sworn enemy, and its recent intervention in Syria has dismayed Western powers which back rebels battling to oust President Bashar al-Assad. A decision to put the militia on the European Union list of terrorist groups required approval by all 28 national ministers. Britain pressed hard for the decision, saying it was a "high priority." "It is very important that when there is a terror attack on European soil there needs to be a reaction," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said as he arrived for the talks early yesterday.

## 'I'm not for sale'

**Girl, 11, flees home to avoid marriage**  
**MAIL Online**  
 A harrowing video has been posted online of an 11-year-old Yemeni girl who claims she ran away to escape an arranged marriage. Nada al-Ahdal says she was only saved from the forced engagement after her uncle intervened. "Go ahead and marry me off - I'll kill myself," she warns in the video, dated July 8, and posted on YouTube. "I would have had no life, no education," she says explaining her decision. In an interview with National Yemen, Nada accuses her mother of arranging the marriage with a Yemeni expatriate living in Saudi for profit. "But I'm not an item for sale," she says. "I'm a human being and I would rather die than get married at this age." The practice of marrying young girls is widespread in Yemen and has drawn the attention of international rights groups seeking to pressure the government to outlaw child marriages.



## Afghan House sacks interior minister

**AFP, Kabul**  
 Afghanistan's parliament yesterday sacked Interior Minister Mujtaba Patang, one of the country's most powerful security chiefs, less than a year after he took office. Patang, accused of corruption and incompetence, lost a vote of confidence at a key point in Afghanistan's transition from Nato to national security control and as the government searches for ways to open peace talks with the Taliban. He lost by 136 votes to 60 in the lower house of parliament, or Wolesi Jirga. "He's lost the vote of confidence and I on behalf of the Wolesi Jirga request the president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to introduce another individual to the parliament for a vote of confidence," said speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim. He has been widely accused of incompetence since taking on the portfolio, one of the most powerful security positions in the country. Unlike former warlords who dominate Afghan politics, he lacks a strong personal power base.