

## Egypt forces raid Islamist bastion

AFP, Cairo

A police general was killed when Egyptian security forces stormed a village on the outskirts of Cairo yesterday in the latest crackdown on Islamist militants, security officials said.

Military and police vehicles surrounded Kerdassah in the shadow of the Giza pyramids after dawn, as police special forces deployed to confront "terrorists" in the village, the interior ministry said.

Giza security chief Nabil Farrag was killed in clashes as 48 people were arrested in the operation.

Authorities slapped a daytime curfew on the village as they went door to door searching for 140 wanted men, including those behind a "massacre" in Kerdassah in which 11 policemen were killed on August 14, amid heavy gunfire.

The raid is part of a massive crackdown on supporters of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi who was overthrown by the military on July 3.



Smoke rises during fierce battles between Egyptian security forces and suspected militants, in the town of Kirdasa, near Giza Pyramids yesterday. Bottom left, security personnel take cover during the fight; bottom right, policemen evacuate Giza security chief Nabil Farrag after he was shot during the raid.



PHOTO: AFP

## Putin 'doesn't believe in you'

McCain writes to Russia

AFP, Moscow

US Senator John McCain penned a blistering column for a Russian news website yesterday, telling the Russian people that their President Vladimir Putin is a dissent-quashing tyrant who "doesn't believe in you."

The senior US lawmaker and the 2008 Republican presidential nominee accosted Putin and his associates for rigging elections, imprisoning and murdering opponents, fostering corruption and "destroying" Russia's reputation on the world stage.

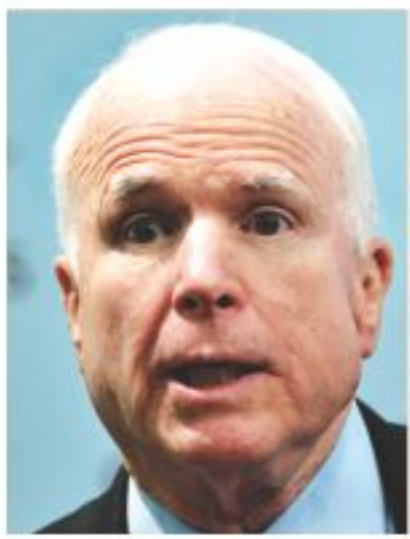
"I am not anti-Russian," McCain wrote in the piece for Pravda.ru website. "I am pro-Russian, more pro-Russian than the regime that misrules you today."

McCain last week said he intended to write an op-ed piece for Russian media after Putin had his own column published in The New York Times.

Putin in his widely quoted New York Times piece criticised Obama's plan to bomb Russia's ally Syria, demanded that Moscow's plan to secure Syria's chemical weapon stockpiles be given time to work, and slammed Washington for "relying solely on brute force" to conduct its international affairs.

In a blunt, often personal counter-punch that ran more than 800 words, McCain wrote that he bears no ill will toward the Russian people, only the country's government which he says ignores humanity's "inalienable rights" of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"President Putin and his associates do not believe in these values. They don't respect your dignity or accept your authority over them," wrote McCain, who was a staunch supporter of US President Barack Obama's early plan for a military strike against Syria for that regime's apparent use of chemical weapons.



## Iran is not seeking war

Rohani says his country will never seek to build nuclear weapons

AFP, Washington

Iran's new President Hassan Rohani described Israel as an "occupier" who has brought instability to the Middle East but said the Islamic republic did not seek war with any country and will never seek to build nuclear weapons.

In the second part of an exclusive interview with US broadcaster NBC aired yesterday, Rohani also deflected a question on whether, like his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he believed the Holocaust was a myth.

But he said Tehran was not seeking war but rather peace in the region when specifically asked about archfoe Israel.

"We believe in the ballot box. We do not seek war with any country. We seek peace and friendship among the nations of the region," he said through a translator.

Still, he branded Israel as an "occupier and usurper government that does injustice to the people of the region and has brought instability to the region with its warmongering policies."

When asked about the Holocaust,



he said: "I'm not a historian. I'm a politician."

"What is important for us is that the countries of the people and the people grow closer to each other and that they are able to prevent aggression and injustice," he said.

The interview aired just days before Rohani travels to New York for the UN General Assembly.

In his comments that aired Wednesday, Rowhani said Iran, whom the West suspects of pursuing a nuclear program for nonpeaceful purposes, would never seek atomic arms.

He reiterated that stance in the newly-released remarks.

"We have clearly said we are not in pursuit of nuclear weapons and will not be," he added.

Rowhani, considered more moderate than his rivals, swept to power in June on promises to help repair Iran's economy and to ease tensions with the West.

His stance has been met with both cautious optimism and skepticism in Washington, where experts note that supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ultimately controls foreign policy.

## 'HONOUR KILLING' IN INDIA Man beheaded, woman beaten to death

AFP, New Delhi

A man was beheaded and his girlfriend beaten to death in an "honour killing" in northern India after they eloped, police said yesterday.

The woman's mother, father and uncle were arrested after the gruesome murders carried out in a village in the state of Haryana on Wednesday, police said.

The couple were tracked down and brought back to their village in Rohtak district after they fled to the capital New Delhi, local police chief Anil Kumar said.

The woman, 20, was allegedly beaten to death and then relatives, angry about their decision to leave, turned on her 22-year-old boyfriend, attacking him with sticks,

Inspector-General Kumar told AFP.

"While murdering the boy they also beheaded him," Kumar said.

The family had tried to burn the woman's body but were stopped by police, Kumar told AFP by telephone.

The pair had been in a relationship for three years. The woman was studying to be an art teacher while her boyfriend was also a student at a local college, Kumar said.

Police said they have arrested her father, mother and uncle and looking for other relatives who took part in the killings.

There are no official figures on honour killings in India, but the All India Democratic Women's Association says its research shows about 1,000 such cases nationwide a year.

## Tony Blair's daughter held at gunpoint

REUTERS, London

The daughter of former Prime Minister Tony Blair was held up at gunpoint during an attempted robbery as she was out walking in London, local media said yesterday.

Kathryn Blair, 25, a barrister, was targeted as she walked down a central London street with her boyfriend and a group of friends, the BBC reported.

Police confirmed an incident involving two male suspects with a gun took place in central London on Monday evening.

"The victims were a man and a woman; the suspects were two males," they said in a statement, adding the incident was being linked with another attempted robbery nearby 30 minutes earlier.

"On both occasions a firearm was seen but not used - no shots were fired. None of the victims were injured and nothing was stolen during the incidents," police said.

It said investigations were under way but no arrests had been made.

## Judicial tug of war in Libya over Gaddafi son's trial

AFP, Tripoli

The son of slain dictator Muammar Gaddafi made a rare court appearance yesterday in a case highlighting the post-rebellion wrangle between Libya's regional authorities and the Tripoli government.

Seif al-Islam Gaddafi stood briefly in the dock before a judge adjourned this case in the western town of Zintan, where he has been in the custody of ex-rebels since his capture following his father's overthrow and slaying in 2011.

Former rebels in control of the town had refused to hand him over to attend a simultaneous pre-trial hearing before judicial authorities in the capital Tripoli, 180 kilometres away.

Video footage posted on the Internet showed Seif, 40, standing in the dock behind metal bars and flanked by two masked guards in body armour.

Prosecutor general Abdulqader Radwan said on Wednesday he had ordered Seif's transfer to Tripoli to face charges there.

Amnesty International has urged the "immediate" handover of both Seif al-Islam and ex-intelligence chief Abdullah Senussi to the International Criminal Court to face war crimes charges, despite Tripoli's insistence on trying him first.

The US-based Human Rights Watch also called for Seif al-Islam's fair trial.

Seif was captured the following month by a group of former rebels from the mountainous region of Zintan, and has been held there ever since.



A man wades through a flooded street in Acapulco, state of Guerrero, Mexico, yesterday as heavy rains hit the country.

PHOTO: AFP

## Devastation as hurricane Manuel lashes Mexico Mudslide buries village; death toll rises to 80

AFP, Acapulco

A resurgent hurricane lashed Mexico's northwest coast yesterday after twin storms killed at least 80 people nationwide and buried a village under a massive mudslide, leaving dozens more missing.

Hurricane Manuel was "hugging" the coast of Sinaloa with winds of 75 miles per hour, threatening to spark flash floods and landslides, the US National Hurricane Centers said.

Earlier this week, Manuel pummeled the southwestern Pacific coast with tropical storm force while Ingrid barreled across the east in a dual onslaught unseen since 1958.

The storms damaged bridges, caused rivers to overflow and flooded half of the Pacific resort of Acapulco, stranding tens of thousands of tourists who sought airlifts while looters ransacked stores.

At 0900 GMT yesterday, Hurricane Manuel crept up the Mexico coast at about three miles

per hour, and was about 20 miles northwest of the Mexican town of Altata.

Authorities said Wednesday the death toll had risen to 80 across 12 of 32 states, but the body count could rise after the grim discovery of a huge mudslide in the mountains of southwestern Guerrero state.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said 58 people were missing after a "major landslide" collapsed on La Pintada, a remote village of 400 people west of Acapulco.

The storms have affected some 220,000 people across the country, damaging 35,000 homes, officials said. While Manuel churned in the west, a new cyclone threatened to form in the east.

With Acapulco isolated, authorities were scrambling to clear rocks and mud from the two highways to Mexico City, hoping to open a way out today.

The disaster sparked panic buying at supermarkets while looters took televisions, food and fridges from flooded stores.

## EU police officer killed in Kosovo

BBC ONLINE

A European Union police officer from Lithuania has been shot dead in Kosovo, the first casualty since the EU took over security in 2008.

The Eulex mission condemned the "act of cowardly violence" and said a murder investigation had been launched.

It said two vehicles carrying six staff members had come under fire while on patrol in the Mitrovica area of northern Kosovo.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, and the Eulex mission took control of police, justice and customs services.

## Meet Britain's worst wife

MAIL ONLINE

My husband is the kindest, most considerate man in the world. During the seven years we've been married, Ben has done most of the cooking, cleaning and ironing without ever being asked.

He brings me an organic buffalo milk cappuccino every morning in bed and once spent hours making fresh syrup from rhubarb to add to my favourite champagne after I'd given birth. And yes, he works full-time.

But for all he does for me, anxious to make everything in my life better, he gets a raw deal in return.

I am shamefully neglectful of my wifely duties. In fact, I am the anti-wife.

The trouble is that I just can't do the subservient partner thing. Ben is more likely to arrive at our home in Twickenham, South-West London, after a hard day's work and find me having a manicure or checking Facebook than slaving over a hot stove.

This may make me sound selfish, but I'm just being honest. At 39, I've never ironed a single item of my husband's clothing. I rarely cook for him either. Why would I bother when he's so much better at it than I am?

And if you think I reward his sterling domestic efforts with treats in the bedroom, I'm afraid I fail in that department, too. Intimacy is reserved only for his birthdays - and then just the ones with a zero.

I felt occasional pangs of guilt about our unusual dynamic during the first year of our marriage, but now I find it liberating. He even refers to me as the 'household manager' because I'm an expert in the art of delegation.

When we began dating in 2003, I was helping to launch a woman's magazine, which required me to be at work from 8am until 11pm.

It was Ben's touching gesture of sending boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts to the office that made me realise what an excellent husband he'd make.

But when, in the early throes of our relationship, he mooted the idea I might one day be a 'stay-at-home mum', I bristled. 'But my mum stayed at home for the first five years of my life,' he said.

'That's never going to happen,' I replied sharply. The matter was never raised again.

Ben claims he doesn't mind the way our life is set up. But if I'm being honest, it's because of my selfishness that he has to dress the children and make them breakfast while replying to emails on his BlackBerry.

It's my fault that he returns home to find no dinner and our children running amok.

You might think me self-obsessed, but that's a price I'm willing to pay for my happiness.

It doesn't mean I don't adore Ben. The truth is that I'm in awe of the way he looks after me, our sons and our home. He makes my life easier. And he says he enjoys it.

