# Israel to tackle Iran 'alone'

#### Netanyahu says Tehran is fooling world, slams Rohani

AFP, United Nations

Israel is ready to act "alone" to stop Iran making a nuclear bomb, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday in a hardline warning against rushing into deals with the new leadership in Tehran.

"Israel will not allow Iran to get nuclear weapons. If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone," Netanyahu told a UN summit in a fierce attack on overtures made by Iran's President Hassan Rohani.

Netanyahu linked Rohani, who held a landmark conversation with US President Barack Obama while in New York last week, to past militant attacks

blamed on Iran. "He fooled the world once. Now he thinks he can fool it again. You see, Rohani

thinks he can have his yellow cake and eat it too," Netanyahu said in a speech in which he demanded that sanctions be maintained. Last year Netanyahu used a cartoon

drawing of a bomb to illustrate his warning at the UN that Iran was close to the nuclear bomb threshold.

There was no repeat this time, but Iran



immediately condemned Netanyahu's comments as "saber-rattling" and renewed its denial of Western accusations that it seeks a nuclear bomb.

"I wish I could believe Rohani. But I don't," Netanyahu said.

"Iran wants to be in a position to rush forward to build nuclear bombs before the international community can detect it and much less prevent it," he alleged. A nuclear-armed Iran would be a bigger

threat than North Korea, Netanyahu added. Netanyahu gave a stark challenge to the

international powers who have broadly welcomed the apparent change announced

by Rohani, while warning that they are also looking for concrete signs of cooperation from Tehran.

Obama told Netanyahu at a White House meeting on Monday that the Western powers had to "test" diplomacy with Rohani. "But we enter into these negotia-

tions very clear-eyed. They will not be easy, and anything that we do will require the highest standards of verification in order for us to provide the sort of sanctions relief that I think they are looking for," Obama added. Netanyahu's speech adds to the

week that he wanted a deal within months to end international doubts about Iran's nuclear intentions. The West and Israel accuse Iran of seek-

complications for Rohani, who said last

ing to develop nuclear weapons, a claim Tehran rejects. Rouhani's telephone talks with Obama

last week marked the first conversation between US and Iranian leaders since the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Western negotiators are to hold new talks with Iranian representatives in Geneva this month in a first test of the overtures.

## One in eight around the world go hungry

REUTERS, Milan

One in eight people around the world is chronically undernourished, the United Nations' food agencies said yesterday, warning world leaders that some regions would fail in halving the number of hungry by 2015. In their latest report on food

insecurity, the UN agencies estimated that 842 million people were suffering chronic hunger in 2011-13, or 12 percent of the world's population, down 17 percent from 1990-92. The new figure was lower than

the last estimate of 868 million in 2010-12 and 1.02 billion in 2009, but the report said progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goal to halve the prevalence of hunger in the world by 2015 was uneven.

Many countries were unlikely to meet the goal adopted by world leaders at the United Nations in 2000, said the Food and Agriculture

AFP, Damascus

adopted last week.

in Lebanon.

United States and Russia.

Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"Those (countries) that have experienced conflict during the past two decades are more likely to have seen significant setbacks in reducing hunger," the report said.

"Landlocked countries face persistent challenges in accessing world markets, while countries with poor infrastructure and weak institutions face additional constraints." FAO, WFP and IFAD define

undernourishment, or hunger, in the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013 report as "not having enough food for an active and healthy life" and an inability to "meet dietary energy requirements".

Policies aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and food availability were crucial in reducing hunger even where poverty was widespread, the agencies said.

SYRIA CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROBE

Disarmament team

A chemical weapons disarmament team arrived in

Damascus yesterday to begin evaluating the country's arse-

inspection mission before the arms are turned over for

destruction under UN Security Council resolution 2118

The Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of

Chemical Weapons is overseeing the implementation of the

UN resolution, which enshrines a deal agreed between the

20-vehicle UN convoy that drove up to the Four Seasons

hotel, an AFP photographer said. They had arrived Monday

Syrian regime detailing its arsenal, which is believed to

include more than 1,000 tonnes of sarin, mustard gas and

The US-Russian deal was worked out after an August 21

The United States blamed the regime for the attack, and

chemical weapons attack on the outskirts of Damascus

threatened to carry out punitive military action, although any

attack was put on hold after the US-Russian deal was agreed.

other banned chemicals stored at an estimated 45 sites.

which reportedly killed hundreds of people.

The team travelled by road from Beirut to Damascus, in a

The organisation has received documents from the

The 20-member team travelled to Syria to begin an

nal of the banned weapons, an AFP correspondent said.

launches mission



#### Riots rock Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

Anti-Muslim riots shook western Myanmar yesterday with a mob of hundreds setting homes ablaze and stabbing a 94-year-old woman to death, police said, as President Thein Sein made a rare visit to the region.

Thein Sein, making his first trip to Rakhine state as president, was due to hold meetings with Buddhist and Rohingya Muslim communities during his two-day visit, according to a presidential office official.

Unrest began rippling through rural areas near the town of Thandwe in the early morning, with a mob of 800 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists from nearby villages descending on one settlement, according to a police official in the state who asked not to be named.

"They burned about 18 houses. After that a 94vear-old Kaman Muslim woman was stabbed (to death)," he said. Several more homes

were burned in another village, as security forces fired some 30 warning shots to disperse two opposing groups of **Buddhists and Muslims** that had formed near the police station.

He said a military presence has been increased in the Thandwe area, which Thein Sein is due to visit today. He spent Tuesday visiting a different area of Rakhine populated mainly

by Rohingya Muslims. Around 250 people have been killed and more than 140,000 left homeless in several outbreaks of violence around the country since June 2012, mostly in Rakhine.

# briet

#### Abdullah, 2009 runner-up, enters Afghan vote

AFP, Kabul

Abdullah Abdullah, the suave former foreign minister

who came second in Afghanistan's fraud-tainted 2009 election, yesterday entered next year's presidential race as the deadline for nominations loomed.

Abdullah pulled out of a second-round run-off in 2009 after collecting about 30 percent of the vote, allowing President Hamid Karzai to retain power in an election that was badly marred by cheating and violence.

#### Typhoon Wutip batters Vietnam; 3 killed

AFP, Hanoi

Typhoon Wutip left a trail of destruction in its wake with at least three people reported dead in Vietnam yesterday, roofs ripped off thousands of homes and dozens of fishermen missing.

High winds ripped the roofs off around 95,000 houses and tens of thousands of hectares of crops were destroyed after the typhoon -- packing winds of up to 103 kilometres an hour -- hit the communist country late Monday,

#### Sanjay Dutt gets 14day leave from jail

PTI, Pune

Actor Sanjay Dutt yesterday left the Yerawada jail here for

Mumbai on a 14-day leave sanctioned to him on eligibility criteria, jail authorities said.

Dutt, serving sentence under the Arms Act for illegal possession of weapons in the 1993 Mumbai ground of good conduct, jail authority said.

## Suicide bomber

AFP, Tikrit

A suicide bomber killed five police in Iraq yesterday, an officer and a doctor said, as an al-Qaeda front group claimed a wave of deadly bombings.

The attack in Tikrit, which hit the counterexplosives police headquarters for Salaheddin province, also wounded seven police. The bombing came a day after 13 bombs in and around Baghdad killed at least 50 people.



US Park Police officers stands guard in front of the closed Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, yesterday. The National Mall and all monuments and large sections of the government remain close due to government shut down after Congress failed to agree on spending. PHOTO: AFP

### 'Yankees go home' Venezuela expels top US diplomats

AFP, Caracas

President Nicolas Maduro ordered the expulsion of the top US diplomat in Venezuela and two other embassy officials Monday, accusing them of plotting acts of sabotage with the opposition.

Maduro gave charge d'affaires Kelly Keiderling, who has held the post since 2011, and the two other diplomats 48 hours to leave the country.

"Yankees go home, get out of Venezuela!" the leftist leader said in a public address, adding that he had instructed Foreign Minister Elias Jaua to throw out the three Americans.

The United States and Venezuela have been without mutual ambassadors since 2010, making Keiderling the most senior US diplomat in Caracas. A US embassy official told AFP that the two other diplo-

mats, Elizabeth Hunderland and David Mutt, work in the mission's political section. The official said the embassy had yet to receive an official

notification of expulsion from the government. Venezuela has endured blackouts for years, and the government has accused the opposition of plotting outages and

economic sabotage before. Earlier this month, Maduro blamed the opposition for

causing a major power breakdown that affected 70 percent of the country.

#### US generals sacked over Afghan failures

AFP, Washington

The commandant of the US Marine Corps on Monday sacked two generals in the wake of a deadly attack last year by the Taliban on a major Nato base in Afghanistan.

The extraordinary decision came after a military investigation found Major General Charles Gurganus and Major General Gregg Sturdevant failed to take sufficient action to safeguard the base from a possible assault by insurgents, the Marine Corps

said in a statement. It was the first time an American general had been fired over battlefield negligence since the Vietnam War, officials said.

## Manmohan says he won't resign over Rahul jibe

PTI, On Board PM's Special Aircraft

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday ruled out his resignation in the wake of Rahul Gandhi's carping attack on his government on the issue of ordinance to protect convicted lawmakers.

"There is no no question of resigning," he told reporters asserting that he does not get "upset easily".

Manmohan Singh said he will meet Rahul Gandhi tomorrow morning to discuss the Ordinance issue.

The prime minister ruling out resignation comes in the wake of demands and taunts from opposition parties that the attack by Rahul Gandhi on the government that the ordinance was "complete nonsense" and should be "torn up and thrown away" amounted to an insult of him and undermining his authority, especially when he was on a foreign visit.

Singh said he would try to find out the



public statement and "why it had to be that way". "I am not the master of what people say. It has happened and as I said when I go back I will try to find the reason why it happened that way and how do we handle it," he said. Speaking to journalists on way

reason why Rahul Gandhi made a

back home from Frankfurt, the prime minister said he would discuss the issue with Rahul and that "it is always possible to change one's mind". He will also "take into confidence" his Cabinet colleagues on the matter.

Rahul publicly rubbished the Ordinance on September 27, a few hours before Singh was to meet US President Barack Obama in Washington.

The Ordinance was approved by the Cabinet on September 24, a day before the Prime Minister left on his US tour. The decision has generated a huge controversy and President Pranab Mukherjee has refused to sign it.

# enough

#### Free burgers for **US govt workers**

AFP, Washington

Washington is promising free hamburgers to federal workers who find themselves furloughed if the US government shuts down, its founder and proprietor said

Monday. The offer is open to furloughed federal employees and contractors upon presentation of an ID card, as well as municipal workers in Washington, which as a

# blasts case, granted bail on

## kills five Iraq police

### Sweden: The best place to grow old

**BBC ONLINE** 

Sweden is the best place in the world to be old and Afghanistan the worst, according to a UN-backed global study.

The Global AgeWatch Index examined the quality of life of the elderly in 91 countries. Researchers used 13 different indicators - including income and employment, health provision, education, and environment - in what they said was the first study of kind to be conducted on a global scale.

By 2050, older people will outnumber children under 15 for the first time, with most of the elderly in developing countries, it said. The Global AgeWatch Index was

complied by the UN Population Fund and advocacy group HelpAge International, and released to mark the UN's Day of Older Persons. While Sweden came top, and

20 was dominated by countries from Western Europe and North America,

Afghanistan was placed last, the top

along with Japan, Australia and Chile. But some large fast-developing countries fared worse than others, with Russia (78), India (73) receiving a low rank.

## Water discovered in Martian soil

CNN ONLINE

Scoop up some soil on Mars, heat it up, cool down the steam and ... slurp, slurp! You've got water!

Mars might appear dry as a desert, but astronauts may someday be able to tap its soil to quench their thirst. Research recently published suggests that the dust from the Martian's surface contains about 2% water by weight. This is one of several insights emerging from data that

the Mars rover Curiosity has been collecting. Five studies in the journal Science were published last week based on data from the rover's first 100 days on the Red Planet. "The community was surprised that there was a large amount of water trapped in the ... Martian soil," said Chris Webster, man-

ager of NASA's Planetary Sciences Instruments Office. Curiosity, representing a \$2.5 billion Nasa mission, has been on Mars since it made a dramatic landing there August 6, 2012. Earthlings celebrated as the two-ton rover arrived, carrying with it the most sophisticated suite of instruments and cameras to explore the surface of another planet.

Thanks to Curiosity, scientists now know more than ever about the composition of the Martian soil. The rover's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument

helped scientists probe the soil by heating a sample up to 835 degrees Celsius.

The gases that came off included oxygen and chlorine as well as water vapor. Based on the ratio of isotopes within, scientists believe this water is coming from the recent Martian atmosphere.

## Marry me

Philippine politician woos bride live in parliament AFP, Manila

A Philippine politician has stunned his girlfriend and won new fans with a nationally televised wedding proposal in congress. Acedillo, 36, said he lured

his lover Ocampo, 28, to congress with a white lie -saying he was about to deliver an important speech on the budget and needed moral support. "I took the floor, knelt

looking at her, I asked, will you do me the honour by being my wife?," he said. "She was taken by surprise and didn't know what was happening at first. But of

down on one knee and

course, she said yes." Some colleagues who knew of the plan then gave the stunned woman flowers.

And television crew who were covering the budget debates instantly had a feelgood story that made primetime news.

#### 'War on illegal drugs failing'

AFP, Paris

increased.

The global war on heroin, cocaine and cannabis is failing to stem supply, as prices of these drugs have tumbled while seizures of them have risen, according to a study published Monday. Researchers analysed data from

programmes that tracked the illegal drug market over more than a decade. Three of the programmes monitored international drugs trafficking; three

focused on the United States; and one

seven government-funded

tracked the drugs business in Australia. "During this time, seizures of these drugs in major domestic markets generally increased," said the study's authors, led by Evan Wood of the Urban Health Research Initiative in

Vancouver, Canada. "With few exceptions... illegal drug prices have generally decreased while drug purity has generally increased since 1990," they added.

The global supply of illicit drugs had likely not been reduced in the last two decades, the study said, and the availability of cannabis and opiates like heroin may even have

A fast-food chain in

federal district is over-



## 'shortest' man?

AFP, Kathmandu An elderly Nepalese

man who is just 41 centimetres (16 inches) tall is stepping up his campaign to be recognised as the world's shortest person. Master Nau, 73, is

staking his claim as the shortest person in an "immovable" category, which according to the Guinness World Records recognises a person who cannot walk. His fellow country man, Chandra Bahadur Dangi, 74, holds the current record for the world's shortest man. He measures 54.6 centi-