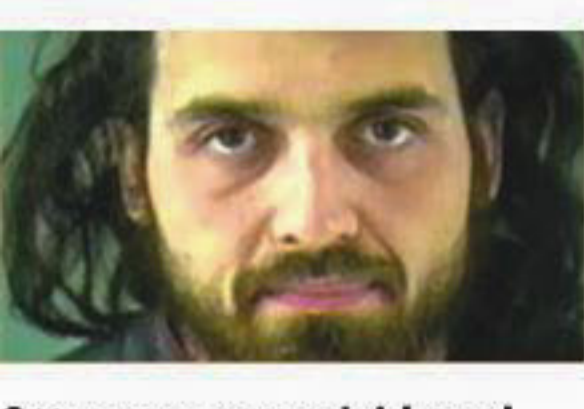


NEWSIN brief

Cyclone Nilofar due to slam India, Pakistan

Indian officials were preparing yesterday to evacuate residents and stockpile food as they braced for another "very severe cyclonic storm" due to slam into the country's west coast and neighbouring Pakistan.

Cyclone Nilofar, building in the Arabian Sea, is due to hit India's Gujarat state and Pakistan's southern coastal areas on Friday morning, the Indian Meteorological Department said.



Ottawa gunman 'videod himself'

Police say a gunman who stormed the Canadian parliament prepared a video recording of himself that shows he was driven by political motives.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police commissioner Bob Paulson said in a statement they had "persuasive evidence" that Michael Zehaf-Bibeau's attack, in which he shot and killed a soldier at the national war memorial before being gunned down himself, was "driven by ideological and political motives".

The prime minister, Stephen Harper, has called Wednesday's shooting a terror attack, and the bloodshed raised fears that Canada is suffering reprisals for joining the US-led air campaign against Isis extremists in Iraq and Syria.

Death penalty sought for Korea ferry disaster captain

Prosecutors yesterday demanded the death penalty for the captain of the South Korean ferry that sank in April, branding him an unrepentant liar who abandoned the more than 300 people who died in the disaster.

They also sought life sentences for three senior crew members and prison terms of between 15 to 30 years for 11 others as the trial of Captain Lee Joon-Seok and his crew wound up in the southern city of Gwangju in an emotional session that left many of the defendants in tears.

Three killed in TMC-BJP clash in Birbhum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Three persons were killed and at least five houses set on fire when Trinamool Congress and BJP supporters fought a gun battle at a village in West Bengal's Birbhum district yesterday. Bullets were fired from country-made guns in the two-hour-long clash, which left three persons badly injured at Makra village, police said.

US urges coalition to wage online battle against ISIS

AGENCIES

Washington called yesterday for the battle against the Islamic State group to be extended to the Internet, as coalition partners met for talks on how to stop the jihadists' online propaganda.

Opening the talks in Kuwait City, retired US general John Allen said ISIS was promoting its "horrendous brand of warfare" online, where it "recruits and perverts the innocent".

"It is only when we contest ISIL's presence online, deny the legitimacy of the message it sends to vulnerable young people... it is only then that ISIL will truly be defeated," Allen said, using an alternative name for the extremist group.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces are ready to depart for Syria to aid the embattled town of Kobane but are being held up by neighbouring Turkey, a senior official said yesterday.

"Until now peshmerga forces did not go to Kobane and we are ready to

DEVELOPMENTS

Qatar officials dismiss ISIS funding claims

Kurds waiting on Turkey to send fighters to Syria

Hungarian consulate in Istanbul powder alert

send them," Mustafa Qader, who heads the ministry responsible for Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region's main security forces, told journalists.

"We are awaiting the stance of the state of Turkey, and because of this have not send any forces," he said, without elaborating on what exactly is required from Iraq's neighbour to the north for the deployment to go ahead.

Peshmerga ministry spokesman Halgord Hekmat previously said the deployment of the "support forces", which will be armed with automatic weapons, mortars and rocket launch-

ers, was expected to take place sometime this week.

Meanwhile, senior officials from Qatar have strongly denied claims the country is supporting extremist groups in Syria such as Islamic State.

They told the BBC Qatar had provided support to moderate groups only, in co-ordination with the CIA and other Western and Arab intelligence agencies.

Strict financial controls had been put in place, they added. In the past, Qatar and donors there are believed to have financed and armed headline Islamist groups in Syria.

The Hungarian consulate in Istanbul yesterday became the sixth diplomatic mission in Turkey's largest city to report receiving a suspicious powder through the post, the governor's office said.

Hungary announced in August it would send ammunition to Iraq to help the Iraqi authorities fight against the IS jihadists, who have seized large parts of the country.

Rouseff wins Brazil re-election

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazilians narrowly voted leftist President Dilma Rouseff back into office Sunday for a second term after a bitter election campaign that split Latin America's biggest economy largely between the poor north and richer south.

Rouseff, Brazil's first woman president, went into the run-off as slight favorite -- despite overseeing economic recession -- and defeated center-right challenger Aécio Neves by three million ballots for a vote share of 51.6 percent after 99 percent of the count.

US President Barack Obama congratulated Rouseff on her re-election yesterday.

Handsome ahead in the north, Rouseff crucially picked up enough middle-class votes in the more prosperous southeast to cement a fourth straight win for her Workers Party (PT).

The 66-year-old daughter of a Bulgarian immigrant businessman immediately vowed to work for political reform through dialogue and to give Brazil the change she said she recognized voters wanted.

"The most important reform is political. This president is open to dialogue. This is the top priority of my second mandate," Rouseff, standing alongside two-term

BRAZIL ELECTIONS



Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name, Party, Percentage, Age, and Votes Counted. Includes Dilma Rouseff (51.57%, Workers Party, Age 66) and Aécio Neves (48.43%, Social Democratic Party, Age 54). Total votes counted: 99.2%.

predecessor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, told ecstatic supporters in the capital Brasilia.

"I want to be a much better president than I have been to date," she told the rally, issuing "a call for peace and unity" after a vitriolic campaign of low blows and mutual recriminations.

The campaign was the most bitter since democracy was restored in 1985 after two decades of military rule in Brazil.



An EU observer monitors the delivery of ballot boxes ahead of the counting process in the Tunis suburb of Ariana yesterday, a day after Tunisia's first parliamentary election since the 2011 revolution.

Secular party takes lead in Tunisia vote

REUTERS, Tunis

Leading Tunisian secular party Nidaa Tounes has won more than 80 seats in an election for the new 217-member parliament against 67 seats for Islamist party Ennahda, a party source, citing a preliminary ballot count, said yesterday.

Election authorities are expected to announce official results later in the day, but if confirmed the result would be a setback for Ennahda, which led a government after winning the most seats in 2011 in the first free election after the fall of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali.

Tunisians voted for their new parliament on Sunday in a ballot that brings full democracy within their reach almost four years after an uprising that cast out autocrat Ben Ali and inspired the "Arab Spring" revolts.

Moderate Islamist party Ennahda and rival secular alliance Nidaa Tounes had been favoured to win most seats in only the second free election in Tunisia since Ben Ali fled into exile in Saudi Arabia after protests against corruption and repression.

With no party expected to win outright, some coalition is likely during weeks of deal-making to form a new government. Presidential elections next month may also delay the immediate formation of a new government. Ennahda party officials on Sunday urged supporters to wait for the official results.

EBOLA CRISIS

US will fight Ebola long-term

AP, Conakry

The United States will help fight Ebola over "the long haul," the American ambassador to the United Nations said on a trip to the West African countries hit by the outbreak.

Samantha Power was scheduled to go to Sierra Leone yesterday. Power met Sunday with religious leaders in Guinea, where the Ebola outbreak was first identified in March.

"We are in this with you for the long haul," she said. The outbreak has killed nearly 5,000 people, the vast majority of them in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"We have got to overcome the fear and the stigma that are associated with Ebola," Power said. Fear that the disease is an automatic death sentence and the social stigma associated with it has led many people to hide in their homes rather than seek medical care, fueling the disease's spread.

The United Nations mission to combat Ebola laid out a plan last week to isolate at least 70 percent of cases - the level that experts say is necessary to slow the disease's spread.

The UN plan also includes safely burying at least 70 percent of victims by Dec 1, and to have 100 percent of cases isolated and all the dead safely buried by Jan. 1.

Australian authorities said yesterday that a teenager who was in isolation in hospital had tested negative for Ebola after she developed a fever following her arrival from Guinea.

The country's immigration minister said it was suspending migration from Ebola-hit West African nations to try to prevent the virus from crossing its borders, as a teenager who arrived from Guinea tested negative for the disease.

Ukraine parliamentary election fair: Observers

AFP, Kiev

Ukraine's snap parliamentary election was mostly fair, the leading group of Western observers said yesterday.

"At this crucial moment for the future of their country, Ukraine's institutions and voters responded to daunting challenges with an election that largely upheld democratic commitments," said Kent Harstedt, head of the OSCE observer mission.

"That response and, in particular, the authorities' determination to enable voting in as many areas of the country as possible, demonstrate a resilience that will help the country overcome its national and international challenges," Harstedt, from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said at a press conference.

Andrej Plenkov, head of the European Parliament delegation in the observer mission, said Ukrainians had "chosen Europe and peace".

Results with 40 percent of precincts reporting showed Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk's People's Front and the party of President Petro Poroshenko neck and neck with about 22 percent of votes each.

Russia's deputy foreign minister said yesterday parties backing a peace process to end the conflict with pro-Russian rebels in east Ukraine won a clear victory at Sunday's parliamentary polls.

"It is already clear that parties which support a peaceful resolution of the internal Ukrainian crisis received a majority," Grigory Karasin was quoted as saying by state-run Ria Novosti news agency.

Uruguay vote headed for runoff

AFP, Montevideo

Leftist former president Tabare Vazquez and his center-right rival Luis Lacalle Pou will head into a November 30 runoff after a presidential vote failed to deliver an outright winner, results showed yesterday.

President Jose Mujica will be succeeded either by his Broad Front ally Vazquez, who earned 45.5 percent of the vote, or the National Party's Lacalle Pou, who garnered 32 percent, election officials said yesterday, having completed a manual count of 78 percent of ballot boxes.

Some Vazquez supporters had hoped he could squeeze out an absolute majority, but he fell short. Compounding their disappointment, his party was also seen as potentially losing its control over the legislature, projections showed.

Boko Haram abducts 30 more girls

AFP, Maiduguri

Around 30 adolescents -- some of them girls aged as young as 11 -- have been abducted in northeast Nigeria over the weekend by suspected Boko Haram rebels, a local village chief told reporters on Sunday.

"The insurgents... grabbed young people, boys and girls, from our region," said Alhaji Shettima Maina, who is in charge of the Mafa village around 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of the city of Maiduguri.

"They took all boys aged 13 and over... and all girls aged 11 and more. According to our information, 30 young people were abducted in the last two days."

Another village elder, Mallam Ashiekh Mustapha, confirmed the account.

Both men said 17 people were also killed in recent days in a Boko Haram attack on the nearby village of Ndongo.

Boko Haram, which has been waging a bloody insurgency since 2009, has been responsible for waves of attacks and abductions.

In April, the Islamist rebel group snatched more than 200 schoolgirls from Chibok in northeast Nigeria, triggering an international outcry.



Kidnapping young women and girls -- as well as forcibly conscripting young men and boys to fight for Boko Haram -- is a well-established tactic by the militants.

Some estimates put the number of women held by the group in the high hundreds. Most are believed to be forced into marriages with rebels.

Maina said his village and areas around it were targeted in nearly daily raids by Boko Haram, prompting many residents to flee to the city of Maiduguri for safety.

He said he had pleaded for help from the Nigerian government but that so far none had been forthcoming.

Cocoa could be secret to good memory

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Cocoa can help to slow and even reverse age-related memory loss, according to a study pointing to the previously unknown mental benefits of the chocolate ingredient.

Scientists believe that flavanols, the antioxidants inside cocoa beans, can give people in their sixties the memory of a "typical 30 or 40-year-old".

The study, by the Columbia University Medical Centre in New York, is thought to be the first evidence that age-related memory decline -- a common problem that can cause older people to forget small things like the names of acquaintances or where they have placed their keys -- can be countered through dietary changes.

The trials involved 37 volunteers, aged between 50 and 69, divided into two groups. One group was administered daily



drinks with a high (900mg) dosage of flavanols, while the other was offered just 10mg a day. After three months, the group that drank the high intake showed signs of faster and clearer recognition of visual patterns. Brain scans before and after the trial showed more blood within the dentate gyrus part of the hippocampus, one of the few regions known to generate fresh brain cells.

German neo-Nazis clash with police

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Football hooligans and members of the German far right clashed with riot police in the centre of Cologne on Sunday as a demonstration against Islamic extremism turned violent.

About 4,000 hardline football fans and members of neo-Nazi organisations gathered under the banner "Hooligans against Salafists". The march had been registered by a regional far-right party, called "Pro NRW".

A counter demonstration under the motto "Shoulder to shoulder against racism and religious extremism", organised by anti-fascist activists, had drew about 500 people.

Cologne newspaper Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger said drunken protesters hurled bottles, rocks, fireworks and bicycles at police, injuring at least 44. One police van was tipped over. Some of the protesters were reportedly shouting "Foreigners out" and "Free, social and national: National Socialism now".

Police in riot gear used batons, pepper spray and water canons to contain the situation and made six arrests. A police union spokesperson told Die Welt that they were dealing with a new phenomenon inside the German football hooligan scene which could become highly dangerous.

Earlier this month, the northern German cities of Hamburg and Celle had seen violent clashes between Kurds and Salafists, fuelled by the ongoing conflicts in Syria and northern Iraq.

At about 7:00pm, a police spokesperson said that they were managing to calm down the situation and that most of the protesters were leaving the city by train.

Pak air strikes kill 33 militants

AFP, Bannu

Pakistani helicopter gunships yesterday attacked suspected militant hideouts in a restive tribal area on the Afghan border and killed at least 33 people, the military said.

The strikes took place in the Datta Khel and Gharlamai districts of the North Waziristan tribal district.

"In two different aerial engagements in North Waziristan today, nine terrorist hideouts were destroyed killing a total of 33 terrorists," a military statement said.

Local security officials said the militants killed in the Datta Khel area were mostly Uzbeks and others who belonged to the feared Haqqani network.

Pakistan has been battling Islamist groups in its semi-autonomous tribal belt since 2004, after its army entered the region to search for Al-Qaeda fighters who had fled across the border following the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

In June the army began an offensive against militant hideouts in the North Waziristan tribal agency after a bloody raid on Karachi Airport ended faltering peace talks between the government and the Taliban.

North Waziristan is a major base for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

Israel plans 1,000 settler houses

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The Israeli government is to advance construction plans for 1,000 housing units to be built in parts of Jerusalem that Palestinians demand for their future state.

The move, revealed by the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, is the first in what is expected to be a series of announcements this week on new settlement construction work in East Jerusalem and on the occupied West Bank.

It comes despite a warning from the US this month that continued construction would "poison the atmosphere" and distance Israel from even its closest allies.

"The government has decided to advance the planning of more than 1,000 units in Jerusalem -- roughly 400 in Har Homa and about 600 in Ramat Shlomo," an official in Netanyahu's office said, referring to two existing East Jerusalem settlements.

The announcement was immediately condemned by the finance minister, Yair Lapid of the centrist Yesh Atid party, who warned that it would damage US-Israeli relations, which are already at a low ebb. Last week, the White House refused the Israeli defence minister's requests to meet several top national security aides. "This plan will lead to a serious crisis in Israel-US relations and will harm Israel's standing in the world," Lapid said.

