NEWS_{IN} brief

US Polls: Hillary 'takes

campaign HQ' in NY

Hillary Clinton is yet to

White House, but she's

ough Brooklyn for her

announce her run for the

picked New York's gentrify-

ing, hipster-obsessed bor-

2016 campaign headquar-

ters. Politico, which broke

the story, said the clock is

now ticking on Hillary's

Egypt army kills 40

At least 40 militants have

army's major ground and

tile North Sinai region, a

day after 15 soldiers and

rate attacks by Islamist

headquarters and seven

terrorists were also

vehicles belonging to the

destroyed in the offensive.

Pentagon chief to

visit India in May

US defense secretary

Ashton Carter will visit

India in May seeking fur-

ther strengthening of bilat-

eral defence ties. On April

6, Carter will launch his

the Republic of Korea.

first Asia trip in Japan and

Three troops killed in

restive east Ukraine

Three Ukrainian soldiers

in the separatist-held east

tinue to undermine a

where isolated clashes con-

ceasefire aimed at ending a

year-long war. The fatalities

were the first announced by

the Kiev government in

almost a week.

died when a mine exploded

AFP, Kiev

PTI, Washington

two civilians died in sepa-

militants. Twenty militant

aerial offensive in the vola-

been killed in Egyptian

militants in Sinai

announcement.

PTI, Cairo

AFP, New York

foes despite deal

limited.

royal rule.

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama, eager to resolve at least one intractable conflict in his final two years in office, has his eye on a major prize: reconciliation with Iran.

US-Iran to remain

Thursday's agreement on a road map for the final phase of negotiations on a nuclear accord could open a way to a broader

realignment that would redraw the map of the Middle East. But analysts warn that the long-time foes remain far from a rapprochement and any future cooperation would be

"In Barack Obama's head, there's this fantasy of a grand bargain, an alliance with Iran, and of reconstructing the architecture of the region for a paradigm shift," said Joseph

Bahout, a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Center. "This is the fantasy of the Obama administration, but he

knows it will never happen because Iran is a lot colder.

"They'll take the nuclear deal, but everything will remain business as usual," he added.

Relations between Tehran and Washington are haunted by the 1953 coup, orchestrated by the CIA, which overthrew Iranian prime minister Mohamed Mosssadegh and restored

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was overthrown in turn in the 1979 revolution that brought Ayatollah Khomenei's Islamist and explicitly anti-American government to power.

The divide between the powers has been deepened by decades of hostile rhetoric.

The United States is regularly denounced as the "Great Satan" by Iranian leaders, and Washington has slammed

Tehran as a "rogue state," part of an "axis of evil." Obama hailed the "historic understanding" with Iran Thursday, and said he is willing to engage with Iran "on the basis of mutual interests and mutual respect."



But he sent Tehran a strong warning.

"This deal alone -- even if fully implemented -- will not · end the deep divisions and mistrust between our two countries," he said.

"So make no mistake: We will remain vigilant in counter-Iran and six world powers in Lausanne, ing those actions and standing with our allies," Obama Switzerland, clears the way for a settlement: added, referring to what he called Iran's "sponsorship of

Despite signs of outreach, restoring full diplomatic ties, severed some 35 years ago amid the 1979 storming of the US Embassy in Tehran and the painful 444-day hostage-

Alireza Nader, senior international policy analyst at the and could potentially end decades of inter-: RAND Corporation, is skeptical about how close

"I do not believe that the establishment in Iran wants

"Perhaps President Rohani and his government want China's crude oil imports from Iran . diplomatic relations, but the Supreme Leader and his sup-

"The two countries will continue to be competitors, especially if there are no major domestic changes in Iran,

Nader added.



A Catholic devotee portrays Jesus Christ during a re-enactment of the crucifixion during Holy Week in the Petare shantytown in Caracas on Friday. Christians around the world are marking the Holy Week, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, leading up to his resurrection on Easter.

ARAB'S YEMEN INTERVENTION Russia pushes UN to pause air strikes

AFP, United Nations

Russia yesterday presented a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for a humanitarian pause in the Saudi-led air campaign in Yemen, now in its 10th day. Russia called the emergency meeting of the 15-member

council amid growing alarm over the rising civilian death toll from the fighting in Yemen. The one-page text distributed to the council called on the

Saudi-led coalition to halt air strikes to allow the evacuation of foreigners, but it did not specify the duration of the pause. Yemen slid deeper into turmoil after the coalition launched an air campaign on March 26 to stop an advance

by Shia Huthi rebels that forced President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia. Coalition warplanes and ships bombarded Huthi posi tions in the southern port city of Aden yesterday and air

dropped weapons and ammunition to Hadi's supporters. The Russian-drafted text made no reference to previous calls by the Security Council for the Huthis to pull back and return to political talks.

Saudi Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi declined to say whether his country would agree to a pause, telling reporters that while he shared Russia's concern for the humanitarian situation, the "mechanism" for ensuring assistance would have to be discussed.

Some 591 people including at least 62 children have been killed and nearly 1,700 injured in two weeks of fighting in Yemen, according to UN officials.

Iran deal good for Sino-US ties: China

REUTERS, Beijing

This week's framework nuclear deal with Iran was also good for boosting relations between China and the United States, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said in a call with US secretary of state John Kerry.

The agreement can be attributed to all sides seizing a historic opportunity through concerted efforts, Wang told Kerry, China's foreign ministry said in a statement released late on Friday.

"China and the United States, both taking on major responsibilities in safeguarding the international nuclear nonproliferation system, maintained good contact with each other during the negotiations, while instilling positive energy into bilateral relations," the statement cited Wang as saying.

"In a bid to finalise a comprehensive deal as scheduled, China will maintain close coordination with all parties concerned, including the United States, and continue to play a constructive role during the process," Wang added.

While China and the United States are at loggerheads over everything from cybersecurity to the value of China's yuan

currency, the world's two largest economies also cooperate closely on certain international issues, including the Iranian and North Korean nuclear disputes.

The Chinese statement cited Kerry as saying that the United States appreciates China's important and constructive role in: the latest Iran nuclear talks. The tentative agreement, struck on ·

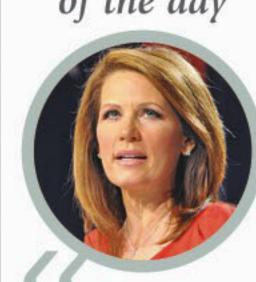
Thursday after eight days of talks between: to allay Western fears that Iran could build : terrorism." an atomic bomb, with economic sanctions ? on Tehran being lifted in return. It marks the most significant step towards .

rapprochement between Washington and : taking, remains far off. Tehran since the 1979 Iranian revolution, $national\ isolation,\ with\ far-reaching\ politi- \cdot \ Washington\ and\ Tehran\ will\ be\ in\ the\ future.$ cal consequences in the Middle East.

China and Iran have close diplomatic, : normal ties with the United States," he told AFP. economic, trade and energy ties.

jumped by nearly 30 percent last year to their : porters view it as being against their interests." highest average level since 2011, as Iran's largest oil client boosted shipments after an · interim deal eased sanctions on Tehran.

QUOTE of the day



With his Iran deal, Barack Obama is for the 300 million souls of the United States what Andreas Lubitz was for the 150 souls on the German Wings

Former US Representative Michele Bachmann

flight

Did MH370 crashed near Maldives?

Remote islanders saw 'low-flying jumbo jet' on the day MH370 disappeared

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Just over a year on, inhabitants of the remote island of Kudahuvadhoo in the Indian Ocean have reported seeing a lowflying passenger jet on the morning the MH370 flight disappeared. The Malaysia Airlines jet disappeared

with 239 people on board on the 8 March 2014. Now residents of the Maldives island say they saw a plane with red and blue markings on the fatal day. Villagers from the 3500-strong community, in the Southern area of the Dhaalu

noise as the plane flew low over head, according to a local news source. "I've never seen a jet flying so low over

Atoll in the Indian Ocean, also heard a loud

our island before. "We've seen seaplanes, but I'm sure that

this was not one of those.

"I could even make out the doors on the plane clearly," said one villager.

"This is the biggest plane I have ever seen from this island ... I have seen pictures of the missing plane- I believe I saw the plane...I strongly felt those people who were searching should come here," said 34 year-old IT manager, Ahmed Shiyaam Witnesses have also suggested that the

towards the southern tip of the Maldives, when it was sighted. The islanders claims are not in line with

plane was travelling north to south-east,

recent approximations as to where the MH370 plane went down.

Calculations based on satellite connections currently suggest that the plane crashed within a 180km arc southwest of Perth.

However, acoustic scientists have suggested that a high energy sound measured around the time the plane was thought to have crashed, could place the aircraft's final destination as near to the Maldives.



Former Cuban president Fidel Castro (L) greeting a member of the Venezuelan delegation "II flight Solidarity Bolivar-Marti" who are in Cuba taking part in social and political activities, in Havana on March 30, 2015. With that meeting, Castro has made his first public appearance in 14 months, local media reported yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Kenya will 'run red with blood'

Al-Shabaab warn of more bloodshed after university massacre

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The terrorist group that massacred almost 150 people at a university have threatened to make the streets of Kenya "run red with blood".

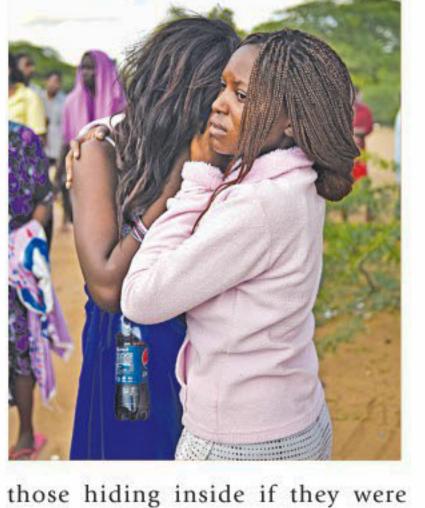
The attack on Garissa University College was the first of many to come, al-Shabaab has claimed, saying that nothing will stop its atrocities.

"No amount of precaution or safety measures will be able to guarantee your safety, thwart another attack or prevent another bloodbath from occurring in your cities," the statement said.

In the message, directed at the Kenyan public, al-Shabaab vowed a long and gruesome campaign of violence that will make Kenya's cities "run

red with blood". Four masked militants from the group stormed the Garissa university campus as students slept at around 5.30am local time on Thursday, going from dormitory to dormitory to hunt

down Christians. One student who survived heard militants opening doors and asking



Muslim or Christian.

on the spot," he said. "With each blast of the gun I thought I was going to die."

The al-Qaeda affiliated group Kenya's operations against it in Somalia, where al-Shabaab originates,

"If you were a Christian you were shot

claimed the attack was retribution for and mistreatment of Muslims.

The death toll from the siege has risen to 148, Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery said on Friday.

Police killed the four suspected militants who carried out the massacre after cornering them 15 hours after the siege started but five more people suspected of involvement have been arrested.

SHE HID IN A CLOSET FOR 2 DAYS A survivor of Kenya's university massacre who hid in a wardrobe for two days too terrified to come out was rescued safely yesterday, dehydrated but appar-

ently unharmed, Kenya Red Cross said. The 19-year old woman was initially too scared to come out until a university lecturer she knew came to convince her that the police officers were not the Shebab gunmen who carried out the killing of nearly 150 of

her fellow students, police said. The BBC said she told them she drank "body lotion when she felt hungry."

Kenyan troops searching the building were alarmed when they heard sounds coming from inside a wardrobe.

Four survivors were also found on Friday, Shiundu said.

March 2016.

women and families will come into effect during this Iranian year. The Iranian calendar year ends in

from doing so.

Good news for

Iran has partially lifted a ban

on women attending men's

sports matches, the Deputy

Saturday, days after a court

Ghavami, an Iranian-British

woman, who had been jailed

for protesting against the law.

In January, the govern-

ment said it would allow

foreign women to attend

The new policy for

men's matches, but Iranian

women were still forbidden

Sports Minister said on

pardoned Ghoncheh

Iran women

REUTERS, Dubai

US man walks free after 30 years on death row

An Alabama man who spent 30 years on death row for crimes he didn't commit walked free from court on Friday after his conviction for a 1985 double murder was overturned because of insufficient evidence.

Anthony Ray Hinton, 58, emerged from Jefferson County Courthouse to cheers from well-wishers before

being embraced by tearful friends and relatives, a day after a judge had dismissed all charges against him. "Sun do shine," an emo-

tional Hinton said moments after his release.

"They had every intention of executing me for something I didn't do ... I shouldn't have sat on death row for 30 years."

Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Laura Petro dismissed all charges against Hinton after his lawyers from the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) argued there was not

enough evidence linking him to the crimes. Hinton, who was 29 at the time of the killings, was one of the longest-serving

among the longest-serving condemned prisoners to be freed, according to EJI. Hinton was charged after two restaurant

managers were shot dead in a robbery at a fastfood restaurant in Birmingham, Alabama.

Police did not find eyewitnesses or fingerprint evidence, according to EJI. That same year, another restaurant was held up at gun point and the manager was shot and seriously

injured. The manager identified Hinton as the suspect, though Hinton said he was at work at the time 15 miles (24 kilome-

ters) away. A manager and colleagues backed his alibi. Chief attorney Bryan Stevenson said Hinton, who

is black, was wrongly convicted in part because the color of his skin. "Race, poverty, inadequate legal assis-

tance, and prosecutorial indifference to innocence conspired to create a textbook example of injustice," Stevenson said.

be exonerated in 2015, according to the

Hinton is the 152nd person on death row to be cleared since 1973 and the second to

death row prisoners in Alabama history and Death Penalty Information Center.