

# NEWSIN brief

## Second NY prison escapee caught

AFP, New York  
A convicted murderer who escaped from a maximum-security New York prison three weeks ago was shot and captured Sunday, bringing an end to an intense manhunt that saw his fellow escapee shot dead. David Sweat was apprehended just 1.5 miles (three kilometers) south of the Canadian border and later transported to a hospital in the state capital for treatment, where an official said he was in critical condition. His capture wraps up a multimillion-dollar manhunt that saw up to 1,300 law enforcement officers at a time scouring the rugged, remote area around the Clinton Correctional Facility in upstate New York after Sweat and Richard Matt busted out on June 6.

## Egypt prosecutor 'killed in attack'

AFP, Cairo  
Egypt's state prosecutor has died hours after a powerful bomb hit his convoy in Cairo yesterday, officials said, following jihadist calls for attacks on the judiciary to punish a crackdown on Islamists. "He has passed away," Justice Minister Ahmed al-Zind told AFP at the hospital where Hisham Barakat had been taken following the morning bombing. He was the most senior government official killed since jihadists launched an insurgency following the military overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

## Israel intercepts Gaza-bound boats

AFP, Ashdod  
Israel's navy yesterday halted a flotilla seeking to defy its blockade of Gaza without the deadly force that marred a similar attempt in 2010 and was escorting one of the vessels to shore. Among the passengers on the commandeered ship were Tunisia's former president Moncef Marzouki and Arab-Israeli lawmaker Basel Ghattas. A flotilla of four boats carrying pro-Palestinian activists had been seeking to reach Gaza to highlight the Israeli blockade of the territory that they called "inhumane and illegal". Three of the boats were said to have turned back while a fourth, the *Marianne of Gothenburg*, was boarded by the Israeli navy and was being escorted to the Israeli port of Ashdod.

## Taliban ambush kills 11 Afghan soldiers

AFP, Herat  
At least 11 Afghan soldiers have been killed in a Taliban ambush in western Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, as troops face their first fighting season without NATO combat support. The militants launched their annual spring-summer offensive in late April, vowing nationwide attacks in what is expected to be the bloodiest summer for a decade.

## Turkish police spray pride parade

CNN ONLINE  
Although the gay pride parade has happened in peace for at least 13 years in Istanbul, on Sunday the parade was interrupted by police who fired pepper spray and rubber pellets at thousands when they arrived to march. Organizers of the march released a statement saying the Istanbul governorship was not allowing the procession, citing the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Parade-goers continued to celebrate in the side streets, as riot police chased other attendees from arteries of Istanbul's main commercial district of Taksim. One video shows a gay pride attendee being swept off his feet with the force of a water cannon.



Indian poor people wait for Muslim devotees who buy food coupons for them during the holy month of Ramadan, outside the Yousufain Shehzad Hotel in Hyderabad yesterday. Muslim devotees, after visiting Yousufain Dargah, as a matter of devotion pay for the meal of the deprived who line up outside the hotel.

# Organisers held over Taiwan inferno

BBC ONLINE  
Organisers of a party at an amusement park in Taiwan have been detained for questioning after a fire suddenly tore through the crowds, injuring hundreds. The fire started when coloured powder discharged from the stage onto the audience ignited. The number of people injured has been revised down by the authorities from an earlier figure of 524 to 498. Footage showed people panicking and screaming, and inflatable water toys used as stretchers. Some 202 injured remain in serious condition, health officials said. Officials said many of the victims appeared to be in their 20s or younger. Some of them breathed in the powder, causing respiratory problems. The water park outside the capital Taipei has been closed, and so-called colour parties have been banned while an investigation into what caused the inferno proceeds. Event manager Lu Chung-chi and several staff members were detained by police on

Sunday and are being questioned by prosecutors. Lu was pictured in the Taiwan News with handcuffs on and his hands in a prayer position. The news site said he had apologised for what had happened and pledged to take responsibility for it. Footage of the incident shows a party in full swing when fire suddenly erupts. It was "hell", a male student who sustained minor injuries said, according to AFP news agency. "There was blood everywhere, including in the pool where lots of the injured were soaking themselves for relief from the pain. His girlfriend added: "I saw lots of people whose skin was gone." The fire was quickly brought under control. The fire department said the powder, used to create a party atmosphere, may have ignited due to the heat of the lights on the stage, or from sparks from machinery. The substance is also used in other countries. It is made of dried corn and can be highly flammable, says the BBC's Cindy Sui in Taipei.

## IRAN TALKS

# Obama sent message ahead of deadline

Kerry, awaiting Zarif, says 'too early' to tell if Iran deal sealed; Fabius, Lavrov to visit Vienna

AFP, Tehran/vienna/new York/moscow  
US President Barack Obama recently sent a private message to Iran's leadership via Iraq's prime minister, an Iranian newspaper reported Monday on the eve of a deadline for a nuclear deal. Hamshahri, Iran's highest-circulation daily, citing a lawmaker, said "one of the leaders of a neighbouring country" took the message from Obama to officials in Tehran. The subject discussed was the nuclear talks between Iran and world powers led by the United States it said, without giving further details on its content. The newspaper suggested that the message bearer was Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who met Obama on June 8 on the sidelines of a G7 summit in Germany. Abadi visited Tehran on June 17, meeting Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as well as President Hassan Rouhani. The newspaper also cited Abadi's visit in April to Washington where he sought arms to fight Islamic State

group militants. There was no immediate official confirmation of the report which came on the eve of today's deadline for a nuclear deal. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State John Kerry warned yesterday it was too soon to tell if a nuclear deal with Iran is possible as he awaited the return of Iran's foreign minister from consultations in Tehran. "We're just working and it's too early to make any judgements," Kerry told reporters in Vienna following a weekend of intense talks with counterparts from five other major powers and Iran. In a possible sign meanwhile of progress, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that he would arrive today, coinciding with the expected return of his Iranian opposite number Mohammad Javad Zarif. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, speaking in New York, said he would be back in Vienna this

week. It was unclear when his British, German or Chinese counterparts might follow suit. Over the weekend officials from both sides made clear that their deadline today to nail down a deal was highly unlikely to be met, although they said they would only extend by several days. Zarif flew back to Tehran on Sunday night, as did many of the other ministers. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini spoke for many late Sunday when she insisted there would be no formal months-long extension, saying "postponement is not an option". "I would say that the political will is there. I've seen it from all sides," Mogherini said, adding "we have conditions now to close the deal". In April Iran and the P5+1 group -- the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany -- agreed on the main outlines of a deal that they hope will end a 13-year standoff over

Iran's nuclear ambitions. Under the framework, Iran will dramatically scale down its atomic activities in order to make any drive to make a weapon -- an ambition it denies having -- all but impossible. This includes slashing the number of centrifuges enriching uranium, which can be used for nuclear fuel but also in a bomb, reducing its uranium stockpile and altering the Arak reactor. In return, the powers have said they will progressively ease sanctions that have suffocated Iran's economy, but while retaining the option to reimpose them if Iran violates the agreement. But turning the 505-word joint statement agreed in April in Lausanne, Switzerland into a fully-fledged, highly technical document of several dozen pages has proved hard work. "It sounds easy, but it's difficult," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Sunday. Key sticking points are thought to include the pace and timing of sanctions relief, the mechanism for their "snapback" and Iran's future development of newer, faster centrifuges.



## GAY MARRIAGE BILL

# Jindal criticises Obama, Clinton

PTI, WASHINGTON  
Indian-American Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has lashed out at US President Barack Obama and Democratic presidential aspirant Hillary Clinton for their views on same sex marriage, alleging that they evolved their views based on opinion polls. "Both the President and Hillary evolved their views because of opinion polls. They can read opinion polls just like the Supreme Court," said Jindal, the 13th Republican aspirant to aim for the White House in 2016 election. "My view of marriage is based on my Christian faith. No early court's decision is going to change that. I think marriage is between a man and a woman," Jindal, 44, told 'Meet the Press' of NBC News in an interview yesterday. Obama has said the ruling is a victory for America while Clinton also praised the landmark decision of the US Supreme Court which legalised same sex marriage, holding that gay people can get married in all 50 states of the country. "I think they're all created equal in god's eyes. And I think we need to respect and love those we disagree with. I think we can have religious liberty without discrimination. My views on marriage aren't evolving with the polls. I can read polls just like the President can. It's based on my faith. I think it should remain between a man and a woman," he said.



# Zero cost migration

Cover visa and airfare costs to gain migrant workers: Nepal to employing countries

NEPALI TIMES  
Nepal is preparing to stop sending migrant workers to work in countries where employers do not pay for their air tickets and visas from 6 July. The host countries have agreed, but ironically it is Nepal's recruiting agencies who are opposed to the facility which at present costs migrant workers from poor families most of their savings. The Ministry of Labour and Employment recently asked Nepal's embassies in Malaysia and six Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain and Oman) to stop attesting applications submitted by employment companies demanding Nepali migrant workers unless they were willing to pay their ticket and visa fees. Nepali recruiting agencies are up in arms against the zero-cost migration policy. They say it is not practical and other countries like Bangladesh might grab job opportunities in Malaysia and the Gulf if Nepal sticks to its

zero-cost policy. However, Labour Minister Tek Bahadur Gurung says the government will implement the new process despite stiff resistance by manpower companies. "We are not backing out," Gurung told Nepali Times. "Nepali migrant workers will not have to pay for their air tickets and visas from 6 July. We will be taking actions against those manpower agencies that charge a huge sum from migrant workers." Gurung says well-established employment companies are already paying for migrant workers' airfare and visa fee. "They do not have any problems with our policy," he says, adding that it is only small and not-so-established companies that make Nepali migrant workers pay for everything and often do not deliver on promised salaries. As of now, it is legal for manpower companies to charge Rs 80,000 from Malaysia-bound migrants and Rs 70,000 from the Gulf-bound migrants. But most migrant workers charge higher, up to Rs 120,000, by adding various other costs.



Nepalese activists participate in a protest demanding citizenship in the mother's name in Kathmandu yesterday.

# TERROR ATTACKS ON THREE CONTINENTS

## Tunisia makes first beach attack arrests

AFP, Port El Kantaoui  
Tunisia said yesterday it had made its first arrests after a beach massacre that killed 38 people, as European officials paid tribute to victims of the country's worst jihadist attack. British Home Secretary Theresa May, speaking at the scene of Friday's gun attack at a Tunisian holiday resort, vowed that "the terrorists will not win" after London warned that Britain's death toll could rise to "around 30". The massacre, claimed by the Islamic State group, was the deadliest for Britain since the 2005 London bombings, and there are fears it could inflict a devastating blow to Tunisia's vital tourism industry. Interior Minister Hajem Gharsalli said the authorities had arrested "a significant number of people from the network that was behind this terrorist criminal", referring to the lone gunman. May travelled yesterday to the resort of Port el Kantaoui south of Tunis, and promised to fight extremism in the wake of the attack.

## 5 suspects in Kuwait face legal action

AFP, Kuwait City  
Kuwait's interior ministry yesterday referred five suspects linked to the suicide bombing of a Shiite mosque to the prosecution service for legal action, a security official said. "We have referred five suspects accused of assisting the suicide bomber to the public prosecution," the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. They include the driver who took the Saudi bomber to the mosque and the car's owner and his brother, all stateless people or bidoons. They also include two Kuwaiti citizens -- the owner of the house used as a hideout for the driver, and his brother, the official said. "More suspects are expected to be referred later," he added. Security agencies have rounded up an unspecified number of suspects in connection with Friday's blast that killed 26 people dead and wounded 227. The public prosecution will now interrogate the suspects and then refer them for trial.

## French attacker denies religious aim

AFP, Paris  
A man who beheaded his boss in France has denied any religious motivation, investigative sources said yesterday, muddying efforts to pin down the reasons for an attack which bore the hallmarks of a jihadist act. Yassin Salhi, 35, on Sunday confessed to decapitating his employer and pinning his severed head to the fence of a gas factory in eastern France in a macabre display that included two Islamic flags. However according to a source close to the investigation, "denies any religious motivation to his act". "He hasn't explained" why he attached the head to the fence, or shouted out "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) as firefighters overpowered him as he attempted to open bottles of acetone in a warehouse at the factory, said the source on condition of anonymity. While the attacker apparently denies any Islamist motivation, police discovered he had sent a gruesome selfie with the severed head to a number in Canada believed to belong to a French jihadist thought to be in Syria.

# Solar plane makes second Pacific bid

BBC ONLINE  
A solar-powered plane has passed the "point of no return" in its second bid at making a record-breaking flight across the Pacific Ocean. Solar Impulse took off from Japan's Nagoya Airfield at 18:03 GMT on Sunday. The journey to Hawaii is expected to take approximately 120 hours. The team spent nearly two months waiting for clear weather to cross the Pacific, and a developing cold front forced the plane to make an unscheduled landing in Japan earlier this month. "Andre Borschberg has passed the point of no return and must now see this 5 days 5 nights flight through to the end," Solar Impulse said on its website. The pilot now no longer has the option to turn around and return to Japan, if the weather forecast changes. The first attempt to fly over the ocean was cut short after a change in the forecast forced an unscheduled landing. And another attempt to take off last Tuesday was cancelled at the last moment because of concerns about the conditions.



# Russia bids farewell to ex-PM and spymaster

AFP, Moscow  
Russia bid farewell yesterday to former prime minister, foreign minister and master spy Yevgeny Primakov, with a state funeral for one of the last Soviet-era political titans who died last week aged 85. Dignitaries led by President Vladimir Putin paid their last respects to the former prime minister, whose remains lay in state in the House of Unions in central Moscow flanked by an honour guard. "Without doubt he was a great citizen of our country," Putin said after laying flowers by the coffin and briefly touching it with his hand.