

## WHO 'unfit for health emergencies'

BBC ONLINE

The World Health Organization lacks the "capacity and culture" to deal with global health emergencies, says the chair of a new independent report on Ebola. Dame Barbara Stocking says WHO failed in its handling of the deadly disease outbreak, which has killed more than 11,000 people.

## 3-1/2 years' jail sought for Auschwitz guard

AFP, Lueneburg

German prosecutors yesterday said they were seeking three and a half years' jail for a former SS officer known as the "Bookkeeper of Auschwitz". Oskar Groening, 94, stands accused before a court in the northern city of Lueneburg of 300,000 counts of accessory to murder in the cases of deported Hungarian Jews sent to the gas chambers between May and July 1944.



## World's oldest man dies at 112 in Japan

AFP, Tokyo

The world's oldest man, Sakari Momoi, has died in Japan at the ripe old age of 112, an official said yesterday. Momoi, born months before the Wright brothers made their first successful flight, passed away late Sunday, said officials. The title of world's oldest man now passes to Japan's Yasutaro Koide, also 112 years old.

## Lanka arrests top judge over sex assault

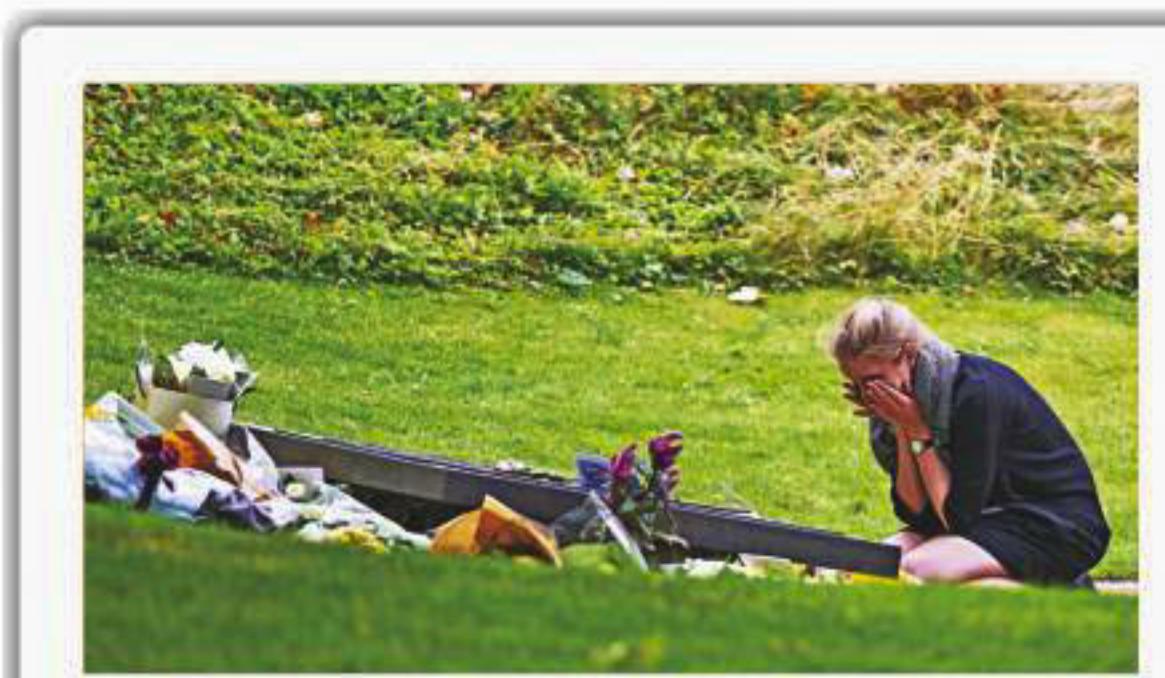
AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan police yesterday made the first ever arrest of a Supreme Court judge who was detained in connection with an alleged sexual assault, an official said. Sarah de Abrew was arrested following investigations into a complaint that he tried to force a 39-year-old woman to have sex with him on the outskirts of Colombo and beat her up when she refused, a police official said.

## Turkish plane diverts to Delhi over bomb 'threat'

AFP, New Delhi

A Turkish Airlines flight from Bangkok to Istanbul made an emergency landing at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport yesterday after a bomb threat was scrawled in lipstick on a bathroom mirror, officials said. However, after scouring the main cabin authorities found no bombs.



## UK marks 7/7 London bombings anniversary

AFP, London

Britons laid flowers at the sites of the 2005 London suicide bombings and held a nationwide minute of silence for the 52 victims yesterday on the tenth anniversary of the attacks.

The ceremony began at exactly 8:50am (0750 GMT) -- the time the first of four homegrown jihadists detonated his device on London's transport system on July 7, 2005.

Bouquets of flowers were laid in nearby Tavistock Square, on the spot where one of the bombers detonated his device on a red double-decker bus, killing 13 people. At Russell Square Underground station where a second device was detonated on a train, a tent was erected near the station entrance where mourners could sit and pay a silent tribute.

This is a follow-up meeting to the recently held talks in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang province.

However, the Afghan Taliban spokesperson denied having any knowledge of the talks in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, two suicide attacks in Kabul yesterday targeting first Nato then the Afghan spy agency left one person dead and

## GAZA WAR ANNIVERSARY



(From left, anticlockwise) A Palestinian girl holds a placard bearing names of women who died during the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas' militants in the summer of 2014, on July 7, 2015, during a demonstration in the eastern Gaza City Shujaiya neighbourhood; A Palestinian family gathers for iftar, an elaborate meal to break Ramadan fast; and Palestinian children play at the rubble of buildings a year after the war. One year ago, a new war erupted between Israel and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the third in six years. In the course of the conflict -- the longest, deadliest and most destructive -- 2,251 Palestinians were killed, including 551 children. More than 10,000 were wounded and 100,000 were left homeless. On the Israeli side 73 people were killed.

PHOTO: AFP

## Talks miss deadline again

US says interim deal extended to Friday; Russia says arms embargo main hurdle

AFP, Vienna

Global powers seeking to hammer home a deal to curtail Iran's suspect nuclear programme missed another deadline yesterday, with all sides vowing to now keep working until the end of the week.

"We are continuing to negotiate for the next couple of days," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told reporters during a break from the negotiations in Vienna, effectively stopping the clock.

But the United States said the terms of a November 2013 interim accord under which Iran has been cutting back its stock of enriched uranium in return for sanctions relief would be extended until Friday, July 10, meaning this is the effective new deadline.

It was the fifth time since 2013 -- and the second time in this round of talks -- that the so-called P5+1 and Iran have missed their own target date to

strike an unprecedented accord which has become bogged down over a number of weighty issues.

Mogherini admitted the seven nations at the negotiating table were "interpreting in a flexible way our deadline, which means that we are taking the time, the days we still need, to finalise the agreement".

But she said it was still possible to

## FINAL IRAN NUKE DEAL

overcome the remaining differences and reach a deal to draw a curtain on a 13-year standoff with Iran, first triggered when dissidents revealed its nuclear programme in 2002.

Despite progress on a series of complicated annexes, negotiations have hit hurdles on how to ease sanctions against Iran, probing allegations that in the past Tehran sought to develop nuclear arms, and ensuring

Iran can continue to have a modest, peaceful nuclear programme.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed however that at the 11th hour a new problem had emerged -- the lifting of a UN conventional arms embargo on Iran.

"I can assure you that there remains one major problem that's related to sanctions: this is the problem of an arms embargo," Lavrov told Interfax from Vienna.

Under the resolution, nations are banned from selling conventional weapons such as tanks and missiles to Tehran. And Russia is believed to be eager to start selling such arms again.

An Iranian official revealed Monday that Tehran was pushing for removal of any mention of a UN arms embargo in any final agreement.

But US yesterday said UN restrictions on arms trade, missiles to remain in Iran deal making the coming couple of days more challenging.

## Violence kills nearly 200 in Yemen

REUTERS, Sanaa

Saudi-led coalition air strikes and clashes killed at least 176 fighters and civilians in Yemen on Monday, residents and media run by the Houthi movement said, the highest daily toll since the Arab air offensive began more than three months ago.

The United Nations has been pushing for a halt to air raids and intensified fighting that began on March 26. More than 3,000 people have been killed since then as the Arab coalition tries to stop the Houthis spreading across the country from the north.

The Iran-allied Shia Houthis say they are rebelling against a corrupt government, while local fighters say they are defending their homes from Houthi incursions. Sunni Saudi Arabia says it is bombing the Houthis to protect the Yemeni state.

On Monday, about 63 people were killed in air strikes on Amran province in the north, among them 30 people at a market, Houthi-controlled state media agency Saba said.

In the same province, about 20 fighters and civilians were killed at a Houthi checkpoint outside the main city, also named Amran, about 50 km (30 miles) northwest of the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, local residents said.

Arab alliance war planes also killed about 60 people at a



A pensioner leans against the gate of the National Bank of Greece as he waits to withdraw money, with a maximum of 120 euros, in Athens, yesterday. France can't take the risk of Greece leaving the eurozone, which would have an effect across the globe, the prime minister said yesterday, adding that the basis for a deal with Athens was there.

## US to intensify air campaign against ISIS

AFP, Beirut

Kurdish fighters battled the Islamic State group in northern Syria on Tuesday after President Barack Obama said the US-led coalition was intensifying its campaign against the jihadists in the conflict-riven country.

The extremist group launched a major offensive on Monday against villages controlled by the Kurds in the northern provinces of Raqa and Hasakeh, prompting fierce clashes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based monitor, said about 80 ISIS fighters had been killed since Sunday morning in fighting and intensified US-led air strikes that began over the weekend.

Obama said the US-led coalition battling the jihadist group -- also known as ISIL -- would step up its campaign in Syria, while cautioning that a long battle remained.

"We're intensifying our efforts against ISIL's base in Syria. Our air strikes will continue to target the oil and gas facilities that fund so much of their operations," he said.

Obama said the group's "strategic weaknesses are real," noting it has no air force and no support from any nation.

But he cautioned that the fight would likely face "setbacks" and would not be quick.

"This is a long-term campaign," he said.

"In many places in Syria and Iraq, it's dug in among an innocent civilian population. It will take time to root them out."

He said more than 5,000 air strikes had been carried out against the group, eliminating "thousands of fighters, including senior ISIL commanders."

In recent days, the US-led coalition has launched a series of heavy air strikes against ISIS, particularly targeting its de facto Syrian

## Taliban, Afghan govt engaged in secret talks in Islamabad

Says report as twin attacks on Nato, spy agency rocks Kabul

PTI, Islamabad

The Taliban and Afghan government negotiators are engaged in secret talks in the Pakistani capital as part of the peace and reconciliation process to end more than a decade of bloodshed, according to a media report.

The talks come after Pakistan Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz had said last month that the Afghan government representatives and the Taliban were expected to meet in a week's time.

The Afghan government is being led in the talks by Deputy Foreign Minister Hikmat Khalil Karzai while the Afghan Taliban side includes former deputy foreign minister Mullah Jalil and senior leader Qari Din Muhammad, the Express News reported.

This is a follow-up meeting to the recently held talks in Urumqi, capital of China's Xinjiang province.

However, the Afghan Taliban spokesperson denied having any knowledge of the talks in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, two suicide attacks in Kabul yesterday targeting first Nato then the Afghan spy agency left one person dead and



Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan's main intelligence agency.

One militant on a motorcycle blew himself up, killing a guard, before other guards killed his two colleagues.

It is the third time in three weeks that the Afghan capital has come under significant attack, and a week ago another Nato convoy was hit by a suicide bomber on the road to the airport.

## Cut 8 days of military spending for 12 yrs of education for all

AFP, Oslo

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai yesterday urged world leaders to cut "eight days of military spending" to give all children access to 12 years of free education.

About \$39 billion (35 billion euros) would be needed each year to fund the schooling, according to an estimate from the laureate's non-profit group the Malala Fund.

"It may appear as a huge number but the reality is it is not much at all," Malala said at a UN education summit in Oslo, as she returned to the city for the first time since picking up the Peace Prize with child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi in December last year.

"In fact, and unfortunately, \$39 billion is spent on (the) military in only eight days," she said.

Malala, who in 2012 survived after being shot in the head for her support of girls' schools in Pakistan, met in June with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to discuss the coming package of official Sustainable Development Goals the United Nations plans to release later this year.

"My message is that in these goals secondary education would be ensured," said the child activist, who turns 18 this week.



## TERROR ATTACKS

## 'Boko Haram kills 25 in Nigeria'

AFP, Kano

At least 25 people were killed when a bomb blast ripped through a packed government office in Zaria, northern Nigeria, yesterday, in a suspected suicide attack likely to be blamed on Boko Haram. The explosion occurred at about 9:00am, as primary school teachers and public sector workers were queuing for identity checks, according to witnesses. 32 others were injured and were being treated in hospital, officials said. Zaria, a mainly Muslim city some 75 kilometres (47 miles) north of the state capital Kaduna city, is near the border with Katsina and

## Shebab kills 14 in Kenya

AFP, Nairobi

Shebab militants killed at least 14 workers in northern Kenya yesterday, officials said, the latest in a wave of attacks in the east African nation by the Somali-led Islamists.

The attack occurred just outside the town of Mandera in Kenya's far northeastern region, which borders Ethiopia and war-torn Somalia, and comes a little more than two weeks before US President Barack Obama is due to make his first presidential visit to Kenya, where his father was born.

"People were sleeping when the attack happened. They just came and hurled explosives into the houses," said Mandera County Commissioner Alex Ole Nkoyo, confirming 14 people had been killed in the attack.

## US to intensify air campaign against ISIS

AFP, Beirut

Kurdish fighters battled the Islamic State group in northern Syria on Tuesday after President Barack Obama said the US-led coalition was intensifying its campaign against the jihadists in the conflict-riven country.

The extremist group launched a major offensive on Monday against villages controlled by the Kurds in the northern provinces of Raqa and Hasakeh, prompting fierce clashes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based monitor, said about 80 ISIS fighters had been killed since Sunday morning in fighting and intensified US-led air strikes that began over the weekend.

Obama said the US-led coalition battling the jihadist group -- also known as ISIL -- would step up its campaign in Syria, while cautioning that a long battle remained.

"We're intensifying our efforts against ISIL's base in Syria. Our air strikes will continue to target the oil and gas facilities that fund so much of their operations," he said.

Obama said the group's "strategic weaknesses are real," noting it has no air force and no support from any nation.

But he cautioned that the fight would likely face "setbacks" and would not be quick.

"This is a long-term campaign," he said.

"In many places in Syria and Iraq, it's dug in among an innocent civilian population. It will take time to root them out."

He said more than 5,000 air strikes had been carried out against the group, eliminating "thousands of fighters, including senior ISIL commanders."

In recent days, the US-led coalition has launched a series of heavy air strikes against ISIS, particularly targeting its de facto Syrian