

# NEWSIN brief

## El Salvador prison violence kills 14

At least 14 inmates were killed in an El Salvador jail on Saturday when violence erupted between two factions of a notorious gang, an official said. The killings at Quezaltepeque prison, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of the capital San Salvador, were linked to an internal dispute involving the feared Barrio 18 gang, a spokesman for the presidency told AFP.

## 30 arrested over Nepal charter protests

Nepalese police arrested 30 demonstrators in the capital yesterday for trying to enforce a nationwide strike, the latest in a string of protests against the new constitution. The protesters were from Nepal's federation of indigenous nationalities, which called a nationwide strike against the borders of new provinces proposed in the draft constitution.

## 'Jihadi John' issues UK beheading threat

The Isis executioner known as "Jihadi John" has been filmed saying he will return to Britain to continue "cutting off heads". The terrorist, who has been in hiding since he was named as 27-year-old Londoner Mohammad Emwazi, is believed to be responsible for the beheadings of at least seven Western hostages including Britons David Haines and Alan Henning.

## UAE rescues British hostage in Yemen

Forces from the United Arab Emirates have rescued a British hostage held for more than 18 months by al-Qaeda in Yemen, authorities in Abu Dhabi and London said on Sunday. It said that UAE forces freed Douglas Robert Semple, a 64-year-old oil worker, in a military operation on Saturday and took him to Yemen's main southern city of Aden, from where he was flown to Abu Dhabi overnight. The statement carried on WAM was the first official confirmation that UAE troops were on the ground in Yemen.

## Typhoon Goni kills 10 in Philippines

A weakened Typhoon Goni was headed towards Japan yesterday, after leaving at least 10 dead in the northern Philippines and causing thousands of people to be evacuated in Taiwan. By yesterday afternoon the storm was 240 kilometres ((149 miles) east of Taiwan's capital Taipei and was moving north at 19 miles an hour, the island's Central Weather Bureau said.



# MIGRANT EXODUS NEW RECORD AT SEA

A young boy looks up at a police officer as migrants wait to pass the border between Greece and Macedonia near the town of Idomeni, northern Greece, yesterday; these video grabs show migrants waiting on an overcrowded boat being helped during a rescue operation off the coast of Libya. Italy's coastguard coordinated the rescue of 4,400 migrants from boats in the Mediterranean in a single day on August 22, 2015, officials said. Saturday's total was thought to be the highest for a single day in recent years as calm conditions encouraged people smugglers to leave Libya with boats stuffed with as many paying passengers on board as possible.

## Migrant crisis may rip apart 'selfish' EU

Warns Italy FM  
AFP, Rome  
A deepening immigration crisis is threatening to rip the "soul" out of the European Union, Italy's foreign minister warned yesterday.  
In a hard-hitting interview, Paolo Gentiloni said the kind of chaotic scenes witnessed this weekend at the Greece-Macedonia border represented a real threat to the free movement of people across the bloc.  
Separately, German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel called for the EU's asylum policy to be overhauled, and for member-states to share the migratory influx "fairly."  
"On immigration, Europe is in danger of displaying the worst of itself: selfishness, haphazard decision-making and rows between member states," Gentiloni told II Messaggero.  
"I am very worried. Today it is on this issue that Europe will either rediscover its soul or lose it for good."  
Gentiloni urged Italy's EU partners to stop squabbling and start working on a common solution to the crisis. The alternative, he warned, would be the inevitable collapse of the Schengen accords which allow free travel across much of continental Europe.  
"What is at risk is one of the fundamental pillars of the European Union: the free circulation of people," the minister said.  
"From the Sicilian coast to Kos, from Macedonia to Hungary and at Calais, tensions are mounting and, over time, they could put Schengen in question."  
"Can we imagine a Union without Schengen? A return to the old borders?"  
He spoke as thousands of migrants, most of them Syrian refugees, were heading north towards the EU border yesterday. The mass movement came after Macedonia police on Saturday reopened the country's southern frontier, enabling thousands to travel north towards Serbia from which they seek to enter the European Union (EU).

## KOREAN ROW OVERPROPAGANDA BROADCAST

# Tension still running high

Talks resumes amid reports of military build up along border

North and South Korea yesterday resumed top-level talks on avoiding a threatened military clash, even as Seoul accused Pyongyang of undermining the process with provocative naval and land deployments.  
The South Korean defence ministry said the North had doubled its artillery units at the border and deployed two-thirds of its total submarine fleet -- or around 50 vessels -- outside their bases.  
"The North is adopting a two-faced stance with the talks going on," said a ministry spokesman who described the scale of the sub movement as "unprecedented".  
"We take the situation very seriously," he added. The discussions at the border truce village of Panmunjom resumed in the afternoon after a marathon negotiating session the night before.  
Analysts saw the decision to keep talking as a positive sign, with the presidential Blue House in Seoul saying the two sides would "continue to narrow down differences".  
But the gaps to be bridged are daunting, with both militaries on maximum alert and flexing their weaponry across a border that has already seen one exchange of artillery fire.  
While the North moves around subs and artillery

units, South Korean and US fighter jets have been carrying out simulated bombing sorties not far from the border.  
Pyongyang is threatening a concerted military attack unless Seoul switches off banks of loudspeakers that have been blasting high-decibel propaganda messages into North Korea for the past week.  
Seoul says Pyongyang must first apologise for landmine explosions that maimed two members of a border patrol earlier this month. It activated the loudspeakers in retaliation.  
The North denies any role in those blasts and is extremely unlikely to apologise, while the South will not accept a compromise that might be seen to reward Pyongyang's belligerence.  
"The two sides may be able to come up with a statement in which some sort of 'regret' is expressed without explicitly naming the North," said Jeung Young-Tae, an analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul.  
"So I think the best outcome of this meeting will be an agreement for another high-level meeting in the future, such as defence ministerial talks," he added.  
That would leave open the issue of the propaganda broadcasts, which Seoul has vowed to continue in the face of an ultimatum from Pyongyang to desist or face military action.

## 'Israel came close to bombing Iran'

Reveals its former defence minister Ehud Barak

THE HINDU ONLINE  
The former Israeli defence minister, Ehud Barak, revealed new details to his biographers about how close Israel came to striking Iran's military facilities in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and why it did not despite his and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's desire to do so, according to interview excerpts aired on Israeli television on Friday night.  
Barak, who also previously served as Israel's prime minister, said that he and Netanyahu were ready to attack Iran each year but that in 2010, the military chief of staff said Israel lacked the "operational capability"; in 2011, two key ministers waffled at the last minute; and in 2012, the timing did not work out because of a joint US-Israeli military exercise and visit by the American defence secretary.  
In the interviews, Barak said "we'd planned to do it" that year. He recalled "demanding" of Leon E. Panetta, then the Secretary of Defence, to postpone the joint military exercise, and succeeding, but still being unable to find the right moment.  
He noted that the two Ministers who balked in 2011, Moshe Yaalon and Yuval Steinitz, "are the most militant about attacking Iran" today.  
The interview excerpts were aired by Israel's Channel 2, which stressed that Barak had sought to prevent them from being broadcast, but that they had been approved by Israel's military censor.  
Reached late Friday by telephone, Barak confirmed that the recordings were authentic but said he had provided the information on background to the authors, Ilan Kfir and Danny Dor, whose book, Barak: The Wars of My Life, came out this week in Hebrew.  
But most Israeli experts say a strike would be all but impossible now because of the continuing diplomatic process, and likely far more technically challenging than when it was most seriously considered, in 2012.



People participate in the annual Color Run after party in Centennial Park in Sydney, yesterday. The Color Run is a 5km fun run started in the US in 2012 and is inspired by the traditional Hindu festival Holi, where people throw natural coloured powders as the seasons change from winter to spring.

## Nepal opens Everest

Nepal yesterday opened Everest for the autumn season, granting its first climbing permit four months after a deadly earthquake triggered an avalanche at its base camp.  
Hundreds of climbers had to abandon attempts when the avalanche struck in April, marking a second summer season with virtually no one reaching the summit of the world's highest mountain.  
Mountaineering is a major revenue-earner for the impoverished country, home to eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 metres.  
The devastating earthquake that struck the Himalayan nation on April 25 killed more than 8,800 people.

## TERROR ATTACK ON FRENCH TRAIN Gunman wanted to rob people!

REUTERS, Paris  
The gunman who was disarmed by passengers on a train in France two days ago looked weak and malnourished and said he had only meant to rob people, a lawyer who interviewed him after the attack said yesterday.  
"I saw somebody who was very sick, somebody very weakened physically, as if he suffered from malnutrition, very, very thin and very haggard," the lawyer, Sophie David, told BFMTV.  
David said the 26 year-old Moroccan expressed surprise when he was told that European authorities suspected him of being an Islamist militant.  
"He is dumbfounded by the terrorist motives attributed to his action," said David, who described him as her client. She said he was barefoot and wearing only a white hospital shirt and a boxer shorts for the interview at a police station in Arras, northern France, where the train stopped after the incident.  
The man, named by French and Spanish sources close to the case as Ayoub el Khazzani, told David he found the Kalashnikov he was carrying in a park near the Gare du Midi rail station in Brussels where he was in the habit of sleeping.  
"A few days later he decided to get on a train that some other homeless people told him would be full of wealthy people traveling from Amsterdam to Paris and he hoped to feed himself by armed robbery," David said.  
Two people were wounded in the struggle to subdue Khazzani aboard the high-speed train from Amsterdam to Paris on Friday. Three young Americans, one of whom suffered knife wounds, were among the passengers who stopped the gunman.  
French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve did not name Khazzani, but said the man in custody had been "identified by the Spanish authorities to French intelligence services in February 2014 because of his connections to the radical Islamist movement".

## INTERNAL POLLS Abbas quits leadership of PLO

AFP, Ramallah  
Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas resigned Saturday as head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee in a bid to force new elections for the top body, an official said.  
Wassel Abu Yusef said that more than half of the 18-member committee had also stepped down.  
"The resignation of the president of the executive committee Mahmud Abbas and more than half of its members has created a legal vacuum, and therefore the Palestine National Council has been asked to meet in one month to elect a new executive committee," Yusef told AFP.  
The executive committee is the PLO's highest decision-making body and acts



on behalf of Palestinians in the occupied territories and the diaspora, namely in the peace process with Israel.  
In 1993, Abbas, then executive committee secretary general, signed the Oslo autonomy accords on behalf of the Palestinians.  
Yusef said that before the resignations were announced, the executive committee elected chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat as its secretary general. That move came after Abbas suspended another key member, Yasser Abed Rabbo, as secretary general.

## INDO-PAK ROW OVER KASHMIR Doubt grows over 2 more key meets

AFP, New Delhi  
Indian officials yesterday said that two planned meetings with Pakistani counterparts are now uncertain after talks between their national security advisers were cancelled amid a row over disputed Kashmir.  
Pakistan said late Saturday it could not accept India's "preconditions" for the talks which had been scheduled for Sunday in New Delhi, effectively cancelling them.  
Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said Saturday that apart from NSA-level meeting two other high-level meetings of officials had been planned to discuss border and ceasefire violations. Cross-border shelling in Kashmir this month has caused several civilian deaths on both sides.  
Swaraj had given Islamabad till Saturday midnight to agree to restrict the NSA talks to "terrorism only" after a row over Pakistan's plan to meet Kashmiri separatist leaders and its insistence on broadening the scope of the talks.  
Swaraj insisted that what Pakistan described as "preconditions" were actually "the agenda for NSAs meet which India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif met in the Russian city of Ufa last month."  
Last year India cancelled talks with Pakistan because of a meeting between Islamabad and Kashmiri separatist officials, a move that set back already tense relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

## Death threat: Malala given 24-hr guards

PTI, London  
Pakistan Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban in 2011 for championing the cause of girls education, reportedly been given two 24-hour armed guards in the UK, after she was made a key target by terrorists.  
The guards have been tasked to protect the 18-year-old rights activist because spy chiefs warn that threats against her have been growing. "Her life's been at risk since that failed murder attempt. But threats have grown significantly, as her profile has become bigger," a source was quoted as saying.  
"Being a Nobel winner and female education campaigner means she is seen as a global ambassador. Her elite police protection reflects this," the source said.  
The level of security given to Malala is usually accorded to ministers or other political VIPs.  
In October 2011, a gunman had intercepted her school van in Pakistan's Swat. After the then 14 year-old identified herself, the gunman opened fire hitting her in the head and injuring two of her friends. Thinking her to be dead, the gunman fled. She, however, survived the attack.

