

# Air strikes alone won't defeat IS

## Warns Kerry; UK bombs Syrian oil field after MPs vote for strikes

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Syrian and Arab ground forces must be found to take on Islamic State, US secretary of state John Kerry said yesterday, warning the militant group would not be defeated by air strikes alone.

Kerry was speaking hours after Britain launched bombing raids against Islamic State targets in Syria, joining forces with France and the United States nearly three weeks after the jihadist group killed 130 people in attacks across Paris.

Royal Air Force planes based in Cyprus carried out the "first offensive operation against Daesh terrorist targets inside Syria," the defence ministry said in a statement, using an alternative name for IS.

The strikes with Paveway guided bombs were carried out by four Tornado fighter jets and focused on targets in the Omar oil field in eastern Syria, 30 miles (48 kilometres) from the Iraq border.

The field "represents over 10 percent of their potential income from oil," the ministry statement said, adding: "Initial analysis of the operation indicates that the strikes were successful".

US President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande and Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman welcomed Britain's partici-



**WAR ON TERROR**  
Kerry calls for Syrian, Arab ground troops  
Belgium charges two new suspects in Paris attacks case  
France mulls constitution change to extend emergency

participation.

Momentum to join the strikes grew after last month's terror attack on Paris in which 130 people were killed and Hollande on Thursday hailed a "new response to the call for European solidarity".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies there should be a single coalition to improve the "effectiveness" of the air strikes.

Prime Minister David Cameron's government was backed by 397 lawmakers with 223 opposing the bombing in a



An anti-war demonstrator protests outside the Houses of Parliament in central London on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

vote late on Wednesday after a sometimes raucous debate lasting more than 10 hours.

Britain already has eight Tornado fighter jets plus drones involved in the US-led coalition striking IS targets in Iraq, operating out of RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

They will be joined by six Typhoon jets, which took off from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland, and two more Tornado fighters, which took off from RAF Marham in southeast England.

In Belgrade, Kerry pushed for ground troops to defeat IS.

"I think we know that without the ability to find some ground forces that are prepared to take on Daesh, this will not be won completely from the air," Kerry said at a meeting in Belgrade of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Daesh is an Arabic name for the jihadist group commonly known as Islamic State. Asked later if he meant Western ground forces, Kerry said: "(I'm

talking about Syrian and Arab, as we have been consistently."

In a policy reversal, the United States on October 30 said it would deploy up to 50 US special forces to Syria to coordinate on the ground with US-backed rebels.

US President Barack Obama yesterday said that while the United States is sending more forces to combat Islamic State in Iraq, it is not following the model of its 2003 invasion of the country that locked it in violent conflict there for many years.

"We're not going to do an Iraq-style invasion of Iraq or Syria with battalions that are moving across the desert," he said in an interview with CBS, using a common acronym for the militant group, ISIL.

"But what I've been very clear about is that we are going to systematically squeeze and ultimately destroy ISIL and that requires us having a military component to that."

Meanwhile, France yesterday said it plans to change the constitution to allow it to extend a state of emergency "to a maximum of six months". They said the legal framework to extend special powers beyond the current three-month limit, set out by President Francois Hollande after last month's attacks on Paris, will be



### Trump calls for targeting IS fighters' families

AFP, Washington

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump said on Wednesday his plan for combating Islamic State militants involves targeting not just the group's fighters but also their families.

"When you get these terrorists, you have to take out their families," Trump said on Fox News. "They care about their lives, don't kid yourselves."

Trump said if he were president, he would try to avoid civilian deaths in going after the militant group, but he said the Obama administration was "fighting a very politically correct war."

Christoph Wilcke of Human Rights Watch said in response to Trump's comments that military forces legally can only target combatants. "The family members of fighters are civilians and cannot be targeted," he said in an email.

Trump's comments about the families of Islamic State fighters came a day after Lebanon released the ex-wife of the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and other jailed Islamists in an exchange with al Qaeda's Syrian wing.

Saja al-Dulaimi, the ex-wife of Baghdadi, told Al Jazeera after her release that she wanted to return to Beirut and then leave for Turkey.

Trump leads the pack seeking the Republican nomination for the November 2016 presidential election. In a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll of the Republican field, the real estate mogul received support of 29 percent.

Voters also said in polls that Trump was the best candidate to deal with terrorism. He has criticized President Barack Obama's strategy for fighting the Islamic State group, saying on Wednesday that the president

## Mass shootings happen in US 'every day'

TIMES OF INDIA ONLINE

How often do mass shootings occur in the US? More than one a day.

That is how often, on average, shootings that left four or more people injured or dead occurred in the United States this year, according to compilations of episodes derived from news reports.

Including the worst mass shooting of the year that unfolded horrifically on Wednesday in San Bernardino, California, a total of 462 people have died and 1,314 have been injured in earlier shootings, many of which occurred on streets or in public settings, the databases indicate.

It is impossible to know whether the number of such shootings has risen in recent years because the databases go back only a couple of years. And experts fiercely debate whether mass shootings that involve four or more deaths are on the rise. Four or more dead is a standard used by congressional researchers and other experts who study mass killings.

Nonetheless, the stream of shootings this year — including an attack on a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado that left three dead last week and a shooting at a community college in Oregon that left 10 dead, including the gunman, in October — has intensified the debate over the accessibility of powerful firearms.

Two databases that track mass shootings — shootingtracker.com and gunviolencearchive.org — depend on news accounts and are not official. Nonetheless, they give an indication of the widespread nature of such episodes. Since January, there have been at least 354 such cases in about 220 cities in 47 states, shootings, according to shootingtracker.com.

Ted Alcorn, the research director for Everytown for Gun Safety said the shootings with multiple victims were just a small subset of everyday gun violence in America. "You have 14 people dead in California and that's a horrible tragedy," he said. "But likely 88 other people died today from gun violence in the United

### DOWNING OF RUSSIAN PLANE IN SYRIA

## 'Allah knows why they did it'

### Putin vows to make Turkey regret; Erdogan says Turkey has proof of Russian involvement in IS oil trade

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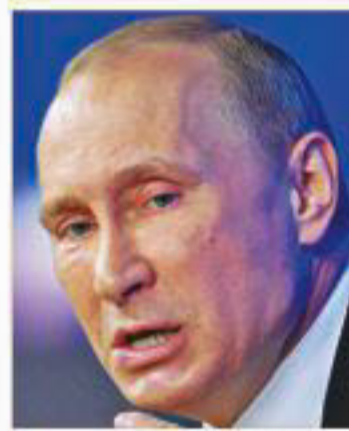
Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday vowed Turkey's leadership would be made to regret the downing of one of Moscow's warplanes as the top diplomats from both countries held their first high-level meeting since the incident.

Moscow announced a halt to talks on a major gas pipeline with Nato member Ankara as Putin fired another salvo in their war of words, while Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan shot back by claiming he had "proof" Russia was involved in illegal oil trading with the Islamic State group.

Delivering the annual state of the nation address to both houses of Parliament in Moscow, Russia's President Putin said "probably Allah alone knows why they did it," reports the BBC.

He added: "And evidently Allah decided to punish the ruling clique in Turkey, by depriving it of any reason or logic."

In today's speech, Putin branded Turkey's shooting down of a Russian jet a "treacherous war crime" and said Turkey was responsible for the "murder of our people" and accused it of buying oil from Isis — a claim Turkey denies.



The Russian warplane was shut down by Turkish authorities last month after they said the plane violated Turkish airspace for 17 seconds, despite repeated warnings to Russia.

The Kremlin dismissed these claims as "rubbish" and insists the aircraft had stayed in Syrian airspace, from where it is carrying out airstrikes.

Putin warned Turkey that Russia planned to adopt further measures against it for the incident - beyond the sanctions it has already imposed which include banning imports of Turkish fruit and vegetables, and preventing Russians from going on package holidays to Turkey.

He said: "We are not planning to engage in military sabre-rattling."

"But if anyone thinks that having committed this awful war crime, the murder of our people, that they are going to get away with some measures concerning their tomatoes or some limits on construction and other sectors, they are sorely mistaken."

"We will remind them not once about what they have

### GLOBAL WARMING

## Thousands flee Pacific islands

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A human exodus is under way across the Pacific Islands as global warming unleashes a barrage of cyclones, floods, storm surges and droughts, a report warns.

Thousands of people have already fled island nations such as Tuvalu and Nauru which, because of their poverty and proximity to the sea, represent the "ground zero" of climate change.

They are leaving as their crops, buildings and water supplies are damaged by extreme weather, according to the research which purports to offer the rest of the world a glimpse into the future of life under a warming planet.

The report finds that 15 per cent of the population of Tuvalu, an island nation mid-way between Hawaii and Australia, have left in the past decade — that's about 1,500 people and leaves the population at about 10,800. One 10th of the population of Nauru, 25 miles south of the equator, have abandoned the island over the same period, leaving it with just over 10,000 inhabitants. Fiji, New Zealand and Australia are the most popular destinations.

The most comprehensive study so far into Pacific Island migration was released at the UN Climate Change Summit in Paris, where world leaders are attempting to agree on decisive action to contain global warming.

Dr Koko Warner, of the United Nations University and the report's author, said: "Climate change poses an existential threat for so many people in the Pacific, who are right in the front line and there's not much more stress that they can take. Any treaty agreed in Paris over the next fortnight must recognise the significance of climate change migration. It must offer financial support and there must be tangible actions on the ground to help countries get prepared."

The number of people forced to migrate — both to higher zones as well as to different countries — is expected to balloon in the coming years, as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather, warned Dr Warner.

The problems already being experienced by the Pacific islands should act as a warning for the rest of the world, she said, pointing out that 70 per cent of the world's major cities lie within 1km of the coast. This raises the prospect of mass migration later this century which would cause a colossal flow of refugees, she said. "We are closer than we think to the impact of climate change," she said.



People look at an art installation by a Danish-Icelandic artist entitled "Ice Watch", made with parts of Greenland's ice cap, on display in front of the Pantheon in Paris yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## Cash row could scupper talks

### Warn developing nations; countries closing in on 5-year review of carbon cuts

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Developing countries warned that UN talks in search of a climate-rescue pact risk foundering without finance commitments from rich nations.

Negotiations under way at a high-profile conference outside Paris are deeply divided on the issue of aid to help developing nations make the costly shift away from climate-harming fossil fuel and shore up defences against future harms.

"The Paris outcome must provide clarity on the level of financial support that will be provided by developed country parties," the G77 and China group of 134 developing nations said in a statement to the 195-nation climate forum.

It called for a "substantial scaling up of finance" over the \$100 billion (94 billion euros) a year that

rich countries had promised to muster from 2020.

"Nothing... can be achieved without the provision of means of implementation to enable developing countries to play their part to address climate change," it said.

Rich countries are obliged to provide such help under the UN climate convention, the statement added.

"This is a legal obligation under the convention. It is neither 'aid' nor 'charity'."

India said poor countries cannot be expected to make the shift away from cheap and abundant coal at the expense of struggling populations, many of whom do not even have access to electricity.

India, also a G77 member, is the world's third biggest carbon-emitting country. It has vowed to

reduce carbon intensity -- the amount of pollution per dollar of GDP -- by up to 35 percent by 2030.

But, unlike the world's top two emitters the United States and China, it balks at net carbon reduction and has vowed to double coal production by 2020.

Meanwhile, UN climate chief Christiana Figueres on Wednesday said climate negotiators are drawing close to resolving one of the sticking points for a breakthrough emissions pact by favouring a five-year review period on promised greenhouse gas cuts.

Regular reviews are seen as a crucial part of any agreement since countries' current pledges to cut emissions - submitted by 185 nations to the United Nations - will fail to prevent temperatures from rising 2 degrees Celsius above pre-

industrial times, seen as a dangerous level.

Countries have disagreed as to how often audits of those plans should take place. While many major emitters including China, the United States and the European Union supported a five-year period, a term included in an outline UN text last month, others such as India have been reluctant to commit.

"It seems now there is a growing consensus that (reviews) will be every five years," Figueres told a news conference on the third day of talks.

There was still little progress on thornier issues, though, such as funding for developing nations and a long-term goal for phasing out fossil fuels.

That prompted French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius to urge delegates to quicken efforts to

### PARIS SUMMIT

#### Humanity must change to avert disaster: Al Gore

AFP, Le Bourget

Humanity must change how it lives, travels and grows food in order to avert global warming catastrophe, Nobel laureate Al Gore said at the Paris climate summit yesterday.

He pointed to a string of extreme droughts, record-breaking downpours and high tides, along with melting Arctic ice as evidence of climate change.

The scientific community is "virtually unanimous" on the existence of man-made climate change and the evidence is "just as clear as it

#### India to ban old trucks for climate

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will force all commercial trucks more than 15 years old off the road from April and is reviewing how it checks vehicle emissions, a senior transport official said, as the government tries to curb soaring urban air pollution. The World Health Organization said last year that India had 13 of the 20 most polluted cities on the planet, including the worst offender, New Delhi.

#### China to cut power emissions by 60pc

AGENCIES

China will reduce emissions of major pollutants in the power sector by 60% by 2020, the cabinet announced yesterday. China will also reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power generation by 180m tonnes by 2020, the official People's Daily website said. It did not give comparison figures or elaborate how it would achieve the result.

