

NEWS IN brief

Five detained over India temple blast

Police in India have detained five people in connection with an explosion and fire at a Hindu temple in Kerala that killed more than 100 people. The five men who work at the Putting temple in Paravur, are being questioned about an unauthorised fireworks display that sparked the massive explosion. Authorities have already ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Suicide attack targets Russia police station

Three suicide bombers yesterday blew themselves up as they tried to storm a police station in the usually-peaceful region of southern Russia, police said. No other casualties were reported in the incident which took place in Novoselitskoye village in the southern Stavropol region. There was no immediate information on the identities of the bombers.

Senior N Korea spy officer 'defects'

South Korea yesterday said a North Korean colonel in charge of spy operations had defected to the South, along with a diplomat and three family members. The army colonel had handled espionage targeting South Korea at the North's General Bureau of Reconnaissance before arriving in Seoul last year, the South's Yonhap news agency said.

Afghan bomber 'kills 12 recruits'

At least 12 people were killed and dozens wounded yesterday when a suicide bomber attacked a bus carrying Afghan army recruits near the eastern city of Jalalabad, officials said. "In the attack, 12 army recruits were killed," said Ataulah Khogyani, spokesman for Nangarhar province. Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed the attacker struck the bus while riding a motorised tricycle.

Five killed in Somalia car bombing

At least five people including two children were killed yesterday in a car bomb blast outside government offices in the capital Mogadishu, a local government spokesman said. The car, which was packed with explosives, was parked in front of shops near the headquarters of the city's local government. "The explosion was caused by a car loaded with explosives," police officer Ibrahim Mohamed said. No group has so far claimed the attack but Al-Qaeda linked insurgent group the Shebab, which is fighting to overthrow the internationally backed government frequently deploys car bombs.



(L to R) Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, US Secretary of State John Kerry, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Canada's Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion offer a silent prayer at the Memorial Cenotaph for the 1945 atomic bombing victims in the Peace Memorial Park, on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hiroshima yesterday.

Kerry 'deeply moved' by visit to Hiroshima memorial

Urges Obama to make the unprecedented trip; US ready to raise pressure on N Korea, open to talks

John Kerry yesterday said he was "deeply moved" by his unprecedented visit to the Hiroshima atomic bomb memorial -- and urged President Barack Obama also to make the trip.

The US secretary of state, who was joined by other G7 foreign ministers, is the highest-ranking administration official to pay respects at the spot where American planes launched the first-ever nuclear attack more than seven decades ago.

Washington officials say Obama is considering a trip to Hiroshima late next month around the time of a Group of Seven summit, which is being held in another part of Japan.

An Obama visit would have huge symbolic importance as the first to Hiroshima by a sitting US president.

"I want to express on a personal level how deeply moved I am" to be the first US secretary of state to visit Hiroshima, Kerry told reporters yesterday as he and his G7 counterparts wrapped up two days of talks.

A museum at the memorial site is a "gut-wrenching display that tugs at all

your sensibilities as a human being", Kerry said.

About 140,000 people died from the Hiroshima blast on August 6, 1945, or later from severe radiation exposure. The city, a key military installation during the war, was flattened by



Children hold up flags from the G7 countries in the wind as the foreign ministers visit the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

the massive detonation.

The atomic bombing of Nagasaki followed three days later, killing some 74,000 people. Japan surrendered within a week to end World War II.

"Everyone should visit Hiroshima, and everyone means everyone," Kerry

said. "I hope one day the president of the United States will be among the everyone who is able to come here."

But Kerry declined to comment on the likelihood of an Obama visit. "Whether or not he can come as president, I don't know," he said.

After a G7 meeting in Hiroshima yesterday, Kerry said the United States is prepared to "ratchet up" pressure on North Korea after its latest provocations but remains open to talks.

"It is still possible we will ratchet up (the pressure) even more depending on the actions of the DPRK (North Korea)," he told reporters.

"But we have made it clear... we are prepared to negotiate a peace treaty" on the Korean peninsula, he said, repeating that such a move would depend on North Korea's denuclearisation.

Kerry had said in February that a denuclearised North Korea could one day enter talks with Washington on a treaty formally ending the Korean War of 1950-53.

The conflict ended with an armistice and not a peace treaty. The US insists that Pyongyang must denuclearise as a condition for talks on a peace pact.

UK FM Osborne publishes details of tax return

Cameron faces MPs over offshore dealings row

British Finance Minister George Osborne published details of his tax records for 2014/15 yesterday, following the lead of Prime Minister David Cameron who on Sunday made the unprecedented decision to publish how much he earned and how much tax he paid.

The disclosures form part of the Conservative government's attempts to draw a line under questions about senior politicians' tax dealings after Cameron's late father was mentioned in the Panama Papers as having set up an offshore fund, reports Reuters.

The summary showed that Osborne paid 72,210 pounds (\$102,971) of tax on a total taxable income of 198,738 pounds. That income was made up of his 120,526 pound salary, 33,562 pounds net rental income and dividend income of 44,647 pounds.

Meanwhile, Cameron braced for a parliamentary grilling yesterday over his offshore dealings revealed by the Panama Papers leak as he announced plans to criminalise firms whose staff facilitate tax evasion.

Cameron was forced to publish his tax returns over the weekend after admitting he held shares in his late father's investment fund based in the Bahamas, which he sold before becoming prime minister in 2010.

But in his first appearance in the House of Commons since the row broke one week ago, the Conservative leader will be pressed by the opposition Labour Party to reveal further details of his financial affairs, reports AFP.

While not illegal, Cameron's offshore dealings also risk undermining his efforts to lead international action against tax evasion, which will see him host an anti-

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corruption summit in London in May.

In a bid to counter days of negative headlines in Britain, Cameron has announced plans for legislation this year to make companies criminally responsible if they fail to stop staff facilitating tax evasion.

"This government has done more than any other to take action against corruption in all its forms, but we will go further," Cameron said in a statement.

'A great shame for European culture'

Greece blasts Macedonia over migrant border violence

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras accused neighbouring Macedonia yesterday of "shaming" Europe by using what he said was tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse hundreds of migrants who tried to breach the border at the weekend.

"Faced with people who were clearly not armed and constituted no serious threat, they attacked with chemicals, with tear gas and rubber bullets," Tsipras told reporters.

"This is a great shame for European culture and for countries who want to be part of it," he said, calling on the EU and the UN refugee agency to take a stand on the issue.

President Prokopis Pavlopoulos also weighed in to the row, saying countries which display such "unacceptable and incomprehensible behaviour" have "no place in the EU or Nato", without naming Macedonia directly.

Macedonia says police on the Greek side failed to intervene as around 3,000 migrants "violently" tried to cross the frontier in Sunday's incident. Skopje also denied any use of rubber bullets, although Medical Charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it had treated 30 people for such wounds.



Indian voters queue to cast their ballots in the state assembly elections in the north-eastern state of Assam at a polling station in Guwahati. The second phase of crucial assembly polls in West Bengal and Assam were held yesterday.

SECOND PHASE ASSEMBLY POLLS High voter turnout in Assam, Bengal

High voter turnout was recorded in the assembly polls in Assam and West Bengal where an estimated 82 per cent and 80 per cent of the voters cast their ballots yesterday till around 4:30pm amid sporadic clashes and police firing that resulted in the death of an elderly voter.

In Assam, where balloting was held in 61 constituencies in the second and final phase, an 80-year-old voter died in a scuffle between CRPF personnel and the locals over forming a queue at a polling station in Sorbhog seat in Barpeta district, officials said. Three others, including a CRPF Assistant Commandant and a constable were also injured in the incident.

Security personnel fired in the air to quell a protest at Chaygaon in Kamrup district after a CRPF constable allegedly "misbehaved" with a pregnant voter who re-entered a polling station to pick up her child whom she had inadvertently forgotten to carry while leaving after casting her vote.

In West Bengal, where TMC leader Mamata Banerjee is seeking a second term in office, an estimated 75 per cent voters cast their ballots till around 4:30 pm in 31 seats where voting was held in the second part of the first phase of poll.

William makes dosa

Royal couple meet 'awestruck' Indian fan

Britain's Prince William tried his hand at Indian cookery yesterday after he and wife Kate met perhaps their biggest fan in the country -- a dream come true for the 93-year-old.

The Duke of Cambridge spoke with entrepreneurs and inventors in the financial capital Mumbai before making the Indian pancake known as a dosa, using an innovative automatic device called DosaMatic.

After watching a demonstration, William gladly poured some batter and waited for the dosa to cook before tasting a bit and declaring it "not bad", although the Duchess could not be tempted to take a bite.

"The Duke said he would love to have the machine in his palace," Eshwar Vikas, device inventor and chief executive of Mukunda Foods, told reporters afterwards.



Yemen ceasefire takes hold

Raises hopes for talks

A UN-brokered ceasefire was taking hold in Yemen yesterday despite sporadic clashes, raising hopes that peace talks due next week may finally resolve the country's devastating conflict.

Forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, the Shia Huthi rebels who drove his government out of the capital, and the Saudi-led coalition that intervened in Yemen last year all pledged to honour the truce after it took effect at midnight on Sunday.

The UN special envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, called the ceasefire "a first step in Yemen's return to peace".

US Navy officer faces espionage charges

REUTERS, Washington

A US Navy officer with access to sensitive US intelligence faces espionage charges over accusations he passed state secrets, possibly to China and Taiwan, a US official told Reuters on Sunday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the suspect as Lieutenant Commander Edward Lin, who was born in Taiwan and later became a naturalized US citizen, according a Navy profile article written about him in 2008.

A redacted Navy charge sheet said the suspect was assigned to the headquarters for the Navy's Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, which oversees intelligence collection activities.

The charge sheet redacted out the name of the suspect and the Navy declined to provide details on his identity.



কানে কম শূনা রোগীদের জন্য
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 52/2 New Easkaton Road, Dhaka 1000.
 Tele no: 01830892030, 0155252783, 9359463.
17th April 2016 The Senso Hearing Centre
 152/2- 2A (3rd Floor), Rowshon Tower, Green Road signal
 West Panthopath, Dhaka-1200. Tele No:01731008075, 9128045.