

# 'I think it's over now'

## Trump hits out at Clinton, Cruz ahead of Indiana primary, accuses China of trade 'rape'

AGENCIES

Front-runner Donald Trump said on Sunday that he will have essentially sealed the Republican US presidential nomination if he wins today's contest in Indiana, where he holds a big lead over chief rival Ted Cruz.

A new NBC/Wall Street Journal/Marist opinion poll showed Trump with a wide lead in Indiana, 49 percent to 34 percent for Cruz and 13 percent for a third candidate, Ohio Governor John Kasich.

Trump, a 69-year-old billionaire real estate developer, sounded confident in an interview on "Fox News Sunday" when asked whether Indiana would basically end the long-running Republican race in his favor.

"Yes, it's over," Trump said. "It's already over."

The poll showed the depth of the challenge facing Cruz, a conservative US senator from Texas who is trying to prevent Trump from winning the 1,237 delegates needed to seal the nomination.

On NBC's "Meet the Press," Cruz, 45, was asked several times whether he would support Trump if the New York businessman

was the Republican nominee. Cruz evaded the question each time and turned the questions into an attack on broadcast media.

Meanwhile, Trump has accused China of "raping" the US, in renewed criticism of China's trade policy. He told a rally in Indiana that China was responsible for "the greatest theft in the history of the world".

Trump has long accused China of manipulating its currency to make its exports more competitive globally. This, he says, has badly damaged US businesses and workers.

"We can't continue to allow China to rape our country, and that's what we're doing," he told the campaign rally on Sunday.

"We're going to turn it around, and we have the cards, don't forget it," he added. "We have a lot of power with China."

Trump, in his campaign manifesto, pledges to "cut a better deal with China that helps American businesses and workers compete".

He sets out four goals that include immediately declaring China "a currency manipulator" and putting "an end to China's illegal export subsidies and lax labour and environmental standards".

### RACE TO WHITE HOUSE



Police officers detain a protester during anti-capitalist protests following May Day marches in Seattle, Washington, US on Sunday. Five Seattle police officers were injured after unruly demonstrators hurled Molotov cocktails and broke windows. Protesters gather every year on May 1 to focus attention on labour and immigration issues, but demonstrators in cities across the US also used the occasion to rally against police violence.

## Drone, Turkish artillery hit IS in Syria, 34 dead

REUTERS, Ankara

Shelling by Turkish artillery and drones which took off from southern Turkey struck Islamic State targets in Syria on Sunday, killing 34 militants, the Turkish military said.

It said the strikes, in response to Islamic State rocket attacks which hit the southern Turkish province of Kilis, destroyed six vehicles and five Islamic State gun positions.

The border town of Kilis and surrounding area has been hit frequently by rocket fire from Islamic State-controlled Syrian territory in recent months, killing civilians.

In Sunday's strikes, Turkish howitzers and multiple rocket launchers first hit Islamic State targets about 12 km (seven miles) south of the border, then four drones that took off from the Incirlik base in southern Turkey destroyed further targets, the military said.

Turkey has repeatedly fired back at Islamic State positions under its rules of engagement, but has said it needs greater support from Western allies, citing the difficulty of hitting moving targets with howitzers.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was quoted as saying last week that the United States would deploy a rocket launcher system near the stretch of border that has come under attack.

A senior US military official confirmed the matter was under discussion but declined to comment further.

Turkey, which has been hit by a series of deadly suicide and car bombings, several of which have been blamed on IS, began air strikes against the group in Syria last summer.

## New raids hit Aleppo

### Kerry warns conflict 'in many ways out of control'

AFP, Geneva

Fresh air strikes pummelled the Syrian city of Aleppo yesterday as US Secretary of State John Kerry made a desperate bid to salvage a two-month ceasefire in the war-torn country.

The top US diplomat gave some of his most downbeat comments yet after meeting the UN peace envoy on Syria, saying the conflict was "in many ways out of control and deeply disturbing to everybody in the world, I hope."

"The attack on this hospital is unconscionable," he said, accusing President Bashar al-Assad's regime of deliberately targeting three clinics and a major hospital last week. "And it has to stop."

Kerry met UN peace envoy Staffan de Mistura and the Saudi foreign minister in Geneva, but the absence of Russia cast a pall over the proceedings.

Washington and Moscow are the joint sponsors of the Syrian peace process, and de Mistura has made it clear that he sees little hope of progress without their agreement.

Kerry said he would call Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov later to press for the ceasefire to be restored. De Mistura was due to fly to Moscow for talks with Lavrov today.

While agreeing in theory to support a ceasefire, Russia has done little to rein in Assad's forces around Aleppo, which were in action again early yesterday.

More than a week of fighting in and around Syria's second city has killed hundreds of civilians, and fresh air strikes hit rebel-held eastern Aleppo in the early hours.

Several neighbourhoods, including the heavily-populated Bustan al-Qasr district, were hit, according to AFP's correspondent in the northern Syrian city.

"What is happening in Aleppo is an outrage. It's a violation of all humanitarian laws. It's a crime," said Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir as he met Kerry.

"It's a violation of all the understandings that were reached," he added, accusing Assad and the Russians of violating international agreements to back peace.



US Secretary of State John Kerry gestures next to UN envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura during a news conference in Geneva yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Lanka sets up panel to probe Panama Papers

AFP, Colombo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka announced Sunday it was setting up a special panel to chase after nationals likely to figure in the "Panama Papers," a trove of leaked documents on global tax evasion.

The government, which came to power in January last year on a promise to clean up corruption, has accused former president Mahinda Rajapakse and his family of siphoning off billions of dollars during his decade in power, a charge he has denied.

The new administration has also been weighed down by huge foreign loans taken out by the Rajapakse regime. Colombo last week secured an IMF bailout of \$1.5 billion to head off a balance of payments crisis.

Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake said Colombo would investigate "each and every Sri Lankan" whose names were likely to come up when the Panama Papers became publicly available on May 9.

He accused the former government of failing to look into 46 Sri Lankans whose names came up in a 2013 probe known as the Offshore Leaks, by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) which is also behind the Panama Papers.

"Our panel will look into names that will come up in the Panama Papers as well as those already named in the Offshore Leaks," Karunanayake told reporters in Colombo.

The Panama Papers have become a global scandal, sparking investigations and resignations.

About 11.5 million leaked documents, from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, revealed the large-scale use of offshore entities to conceal assets from tax authorities.

## NEWS IN brief

### CIA 'live-tweets' bin Laden raid

AFP, Washington

The CIA has marked the anniversary of the killing of Osama bin Laden by live-tweeting -- with a five-year delay -- the raid by US special forces on the Al-Qaeda founder's compound in Pakistan. Using the hashtag #UBLRaid, the CIA blasted out updates of the May 2011 strike as if it was unfolding in real time -- in a highly unusual move for the secretive spy agency.

### Bombs in Baghdad kill 14, including Shias

REUTERS, Baghdad

Three bombs went off in and around Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 14 people, including Shia Muslim worshippers conducting an annual pilgrimage inside the capital, police and medical sources said. The largest blast, which Islamic State said it was behind, came from a parked car bomb in the Saydiya district of southern Baghdad, the sources said.

### First US cruise ship sails to Cuba since 1978

AFP, Havana

The first US cruise ship to travel to Cuba in half a century docked in Havana yesterday, marking a new milestone in the rapprochement between the old Cold War foes. A crowd of onlookers waved Cuban flags and filmed with their cell phones as the Adonia, a Carnival cruiseliner, sailed into port in Havana after setting off Sunday from Miami, the heart of the Cuban diaspora in the United States.

### Egypt police arrest two journo

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian police stormed the headquarters of the journalists' association in central Cairo Sunday and arrested two journalists for incitement to protest, judicial sources and the head of the union said. "This is the first time that police have stormed the headquarters of the association," its head Yahya Kallash told AFP, adding that journalists Amr Badr and Mahmud el-Sakka were arrested.

### Hundreds protest over sacking of HK editor

AFP, Hong Kong

Hundreds of protesters gathered yesterday outside the headquarters of a Hong Kong newspaper where a respected editor was recently sacked after publishing a front-page story linked to the Panama Papers leak. Around 300 reporters, activists and members of the public rallied over the firing of Keung Kwok-yuen, saying it was further evidence of deteriorating press freedoms in the semi-autonomous city.



French gendarmes hold a man during the evacuation of a makeshift migrant camp under the Stalingrad metro station in Paris yesterday. Around 150 police officers relocated more than one thousand people, the third time the camp has been cleared in as many months.

## EU MIGRANT CRISIS 'Nearly 90,000 minors sought asylum in 2015'

REUTERS, Brussels

Some 88,300 unaccompanied minors sought asylum in the European Union in 2015, 13 percent of them children younger than 14, crossing continents without their parents to seek a place of safety, EU data showed yesterday.

More than a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa reached Europe last year. While that was roughly double the 2014 figure, the number of unaccompanied minors quadrupled, statistics agency Eurostat said.

Minors made up about a third of the 1.26 million first-time asylum applications filed in the EU last year.

European Union states disagree on how to handle Europe's worst migration crisis since World War Two and anti-immigrant sentiment has grown, even in countries that traditionally have a generous approach to helping people seeking refuge.

Four in 10 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in Sweden, where some have called for greater checks, suspicious that adults are passing themselves off as children in order to secure protection they might otherwise be denied.

Eurostat's figures refer specifically to asylum applicants "considered to be unaccompanied minors", meaning EU states accepted the youngsters' declared age or established it themselves through age assessment procedures.

## Bitcoin mystery solved?

BBC ONLINE

Australian entrepreneur Craig Wright has publicly identified himself as Bitcoin creator Satoshi Nakamoto.

His admission follows years of speculation about who came up with the original ideas underlying the digital cash system. Wright has provided technical proof to back up his claim using coins known to be owned by Bitcoin's creator.

Prominent members of the Bitcoin community and its core development team say they have confirmed his claims. But many others in the Bitcoin world are asking for more proof.

Wright has revealed his identity to three media organisations - the BBC, the Economist and GQ.

At the meeting with the BBC, Wright digitally signed

messages using cryptographic keys created during the early days of Bitcoin's development. The keys are inextricably linked to blocks of bitcoins known to have been created or "mined" by Satoshi Nakamoto.

"These are the blocks used to



send 10 bitcoins to Hal Finney in January [2009] as the first bitcoin transaction," said Wright during his demonstration.

Renowned cryptographer Hal Finney was one of the engineers who helped turn Wright's ideas into the Bitcoin protocol, he said.

## Toddlers shot 23 this year in US

PTI, Washington

The US has witnessed at least 23 toddler-involved shootings since January 1 this year, which is a jump from the 18 such tragic incidents over the same period last year, the Washington Post reported. This is despite the Obama administration's efforts to introduce new gun control measures.

In the vast majority of cases, the children accidentally shot themselves. That has happened 18 times this year, and in nine of those cases, the children died of their wounds.

Last year, a Post analysis found that toddlers were finding guns and shooting people at a rate of about one a week. This year, that pace has accelerated, the report added. Toddlers have shot other people five times this year. These numbers represent only a small fraction of gun violence involving children. Georgia is home to the highest number of toddler shootings, with at least eight incidents since January 2015. Texas and Missouri are tied for second place with seven shootings each.

## US, India discuss anti-submarine warfare

REUTERS, New Delhi/Hong Kong

India and the United States are in talks to help each other track submarines in the Indian Ocean, military officials say, a move that could further tighten defense ties between New Delhi and Washington as China steps up its undersea activities.

Both the United States and India are growing concerned at the reach and ambition of the Chinese navy, which is taking an increasingly assertive stance in the South China Sea and is challenging India's domination in the Indian Ocean.

New Delhi, shedding its decades-old reluctance to be drawn into America's

embrace, agreed last month to open up its military bases to the United States in exchange for access to weapons technology to help it narrow the gap with China.

The two sides also said their navies will hold talks on anti-submarine warfare (ASW), an area of sensitive military technology and closely held tactics that only allies share.

"These types of basic engagements will be the building blocks for an enduring Navy-to-Navy relationship that we hope will grow over time into a shared ASW capability," one US official familiar with India-US military cooperation said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### CHINA'S UNDERSEA ACTIVITY

