

'Turn people in'

Trump urges Muslims, warns of bad relationship with Cameron, criticises London mayor

BBC ONLINE

The presumptive Republican candidate in the US presidential election, Donald Trump, has called on Muslims to work with the police and "turn people in".

In an interview with the UK's ITV, Trump said he was not anti-Muslim, but "anti-terror".

He was reacting to remarks by UK Prime Minister David Cameron that he was "stupid, divisive and wrong" in calling for Muslims to be banned from the US.

Trump made the call last year, when he was not the party's front-runner. He insisted that when he called for an immediate temporary ban on Muslims being allowed into America, there had been criticism only from politicians. Millions of people from all over the world had called in, he said, saying "Donald Trump is right".

Asked whether he would re-phrase those comments in the light of the controversy they caused, Trump said: "It got people thinking. Whether it's good for me or bad for me, I don't really care."

"Something very bad" was going on that people pretended didn't exist, Trump said.

The world had a tremendous problem with radical Islamic terror, the New York

billionaire said. "If you look at it world-wide, the world is blowing up. And it's not people from Sweden that's doing the damage, okay?"

It is up to Muslims to turn in people they suspected of extremism, he told ITV. "They have to work with the police. They're not turning them in. If they're not playing ball, it's not going to work out."

Referring to Cameron's criticism, Trump also said it looked like he was not going to have a good relationship with the UK prime minister. He also criticised the new Mayor of London Sadiq Khan for calling him "ignorant".

The New Yorker is one of the least politically experienced nominees in US history, having never held elected office. Many senior Republicans have refused to back him. All other Republican rivals have dropped out of the campaign.

Protests have plagued his campaign, with particular focus on his plan to build a wall on the Mexican border and deport 11 million undocumented immigrants.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton appears closer to the nomination, having secured more delegates than Bernie Sanders.



K A B U L LOCKED DOWN

Thousands of demonstrators from Afghanistan's Hazara minority marched through Kabul yesterday to protest against the planned route of a multi-million dollar power transmission line, posing a major challenge to the government of President Ashraf Ghani.

PHOTO: REUTERS



I'll bring back death penalty

Vows Philippine's Duterte

AFP, Davao

Philippine president-elect Rodrigo Duterte yesterday vowed to introduce executions by hanging as part of a ruthless law-and-order crackdown that would also include ordering military snipers to kill suspected criminals.

In back-to-back press conferences since his landslide victory in May 9 elections, the tough-talking mayor of southern Davao city said security forces would be given "shoot-to-kill" orders and that citizens would learn to fear the law.

"Those who destroy the lives of our children will be destroyed," Duterte said in wide-ranging comments to reporters in Davao yesterday afternoon as he outlined on his war on crime once he is sworn into office on June 30.

"Those who kill my country will be killed. Simple as that. No middle ground. No apologies. No excuses."

Duterte also vowed to roll out Davao law-and-order measures on a nationwide basis, including a 2:00 am curfew on drinking in public places and a ban on children walking on the streets alone late at night. Smoking in restaurants and hotels will also be banned.

Duterte said a central part of his war on crime would be to bring back the death penalty, which was abolished in 2006 under then-president Gloria Arroyo.

Duterte said he would ask Congress to reintroduce capital punishment for a wide range of crimes, including drug trafficking, rape, murder, robbery and kidnapping-for-ransom.

India set to 'divert rivers'

BBC ONLINE

India is set to divert water from its rivers to deal with a severe drought, a senior minister has told the BBC.

Water Resources Minister Uma Bharati said transferring water, including from major rivers like the Brahmaputra and the Ganges, to drought-prone areas is now her government's top priority.

At least 330 million people are affected by drought in India. The drought is taking place as a heat wave extends across much of India, with temperatures in excess of 40C.

The Inter Linking of Rivers (ILR) has 30 links planned for water-transfer, 14 of them fed by Himalayan glaciers in the north of the country and 16 in peninsular India.

Environmentalists have opposed the project, arguing it will invite ecological disaster but the Supreme Court has ordered its implementation. "Interlinking of rivers is our prime agenda and we have got the people's support and I am determined to do it on the fast track," Bharati said.

"We are going ahead with five links [of the rivers] now and the first one, the Ken-Betwa link [in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh] is going to start any time now."

"And then we will have the Damnaganga-Pinjal interlink which will sort out the Mumbai drinking water facility." Bharati said the river-linking project would be the first in Indian history since independence in 1947.

There were also other projects aimed at supplying water for irrigation and drinking in the next few years and the ILR was a long-term scheme, she added. Following two consecutive bad monsoons, India is facing one of its worst droughts.

Of its 29 states, nearly half were reported to have suffered from severe water crisis this dry season. The worst hit have been Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, among others.

The federal government in Delhi has had to send trains carrying water to the worst affected places. India has faced a water crisis for years. Its ground waters have depleted to alarming levels, mainly because of unsustainable extraction for agriculture and industries.

"The water crisis will be there [in the future] because of climate change but through this [interlinking of rivers] we will be able to help the people," Bharati said. "The public has welcomed it and they are happily ready to be displaced," she added.

TACKLING DROUGHT



Indonesian police and villagers carry the body of a flash flood victim in Sibolangit, North Sumatra yesterday. At least 15 people were killed and dozens missing in flash floods that hit the Dua Warna waterfall in Sibolangit where about 80 people were camped.

50th anniv unmarked by state media

AFP, Beijing

Official Chinese media stayed largely silent about yesterday's 50th anniversary of the start of the bloody Cultural Revolution, with discussion of the tumultuous decade still controlled on the mainland.

May 16 marked half a century since the 1966 declaration of the movement, which left mayhem in its wake and transformed the political landscape.

But the People's Daily, mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party, carried no articles about the anniversary in either Chinese or English.

The state-run Global Times ran just five paragraphs of an AFP story about the popularity of Cultural Revolution memorabilia but without including any political context.

In 1981 the Communist Party officially pronounced the Cultural Revolution a grave error that "led to domestic turmoil and brought catastrophe to the Party, the state

and the whole people".

It ascribed chief responsibility to Mao Zedong, avoiding the question of the party's own culpability. Now it restricts discussion of the period to prevent undermining the legitimacy of its rule.

Asked about the anniversary at a

regular press briefing yesterday, foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei offered only a single sentence in response: "The Chinese government already made the correct verdict on it long ago."

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CHINA'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

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UN CLIMATE MEET New talks aim at fleshing out Paris deal

AFP, Bonn

Five months after ushering in a landmark climate deal, diplomats kicked off a new round of talks yesterday tasked with converting a political blueprint into a workable plan.

"The whole world is united in its commitment to the global goals embodied in the Paris Agreement," the UN's outgoing climate chief, Christiana Figueres, told the 196-nation UN climate body at the start of a 10-day session in Bonn.

"Now we must design the details of the path to the safe, prosperous and climate neutral future to which we all aspire."

That remains a daunting task, negotiators and experts agreed. The targets set are hugely ambitious, and the rift between rich and developing countries -- overcome to seal the deal in December -- remains just beneath the surface.

The goal of capping global warming at "well below" two degree Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) means nothing less than weaning the world economy off fossil fuels within a few short decades.

It will also require mobilising trillions of dollars to help poor countries green their economies and brace for climate impacts.

Most of the details on how this will happen have yet to be worked out. Voluntary national pledges in the Paris pact to slash carbon pollution -- going into effect in 2020 -- would still allow Earth's surface by at least 3 C (5.4 F), a cataclysmic scenario, say scientists.

A single degree Celsius of warming since the pre-industrial benchmark has already seen a crescendo of devastating storms, droughts and rising seas.

World powers ready to arm Libyan govt

AFP, Vienna

World powers said yesterday they supported the lifting of an arms embargo on Libya and were ready to supply weapons to the country's new unity government to help it fight the growing threat posed by the Islamic State group.

"The Government of National Accord has voiced its intention to submit appropriate arms embargo exemption requests to the UN Libya Sanctions Committee to procure necessary lethal arms and materiel to counter UN-designated terrorist groups and to combat (IS) throughout the country. We will fully support these efforts," read a statement by US Secretary of State John Kerry and 24 other top diplomats after talks in Vienna.

The conference was co-chaired by Kerry and his Italian counterpart Paolo Gentiloni whose country has faced a major influx of migrants from the North African nation braving the perilous sea voyage to reach Europe.

Libya plunged into chaos after the 2011 Nato-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, with rival militias vying to control the oil-rich country.

Taking advantage of the mayhem, the Islamic State group has carved itself a bastion in Libya where it last year overran the Mediterranean coastal city of Sirte.

The recently formed Government of National Accord backed by the international community has been slowly asserting its authority in Tripoli, but it still faces a rival administration in the east.

BJP set to win in Assam, Mamata in WB: Exit polls

IANS, New Delhi

The BJP-led alliance is set to win the Assam assembly elections, two exit polls predicted yesterday evening.

The India Today-Axis exit poll gave 79-93 seats to the Bharatiya Janata Party combine, 26-33 to the Congress and 6-10 to the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF).

The AB Nielsen predicted 81 seats to the BJP coalition, 33 to the Congress and 10 to the AIUDF.

The ruling Trinamool Congress led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will retain power in West Bengal with a slightly reduced majority, two exit polls said yesterday evening.

ABP Ananda predicted that the Trinamool was poised to get 178 of the 294 seats -- it had 184 in the outgoing assembly -- while the Left-Congress combine would get 110.

The BJP would get one seat, while others would bag five seats.

CVoter predicted 167 seats for the Trinamool, 75 for the Left, 45 for the Congress, four to the BJP and three to others.

The first exit poll in for Kerala shows the Left winning the state from the Congress, with over 88 of a possible 140 seats.

The poll of polls for Kerala shows the Left returning to power with over 85 of 140 sets. The Congress has been battered by a series of corruption scandals in Kerala, one of the few states it still governs.

Tamil Nadu goes to the DMK, according to the India Today exit poll.

Tamil Nadu witnessed brisk polling in 232 Assembly constituencies yesterday. Over 300 companies of paramilitary personnel are involved in election duty.



Doctors perform first US penis transplant

AFP, Washington

A 64-year-old man who lost most of his penis to cancer is recovering well after undergoing the United States' first penis transplant operation, doctors said yesterday.

The 15-hour surgery took place earlier this month at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and is the third such operation known in the world.

"The patient, Thomas Manning, 64, of Halifax, Massachusetts, continues to recover well, with blood flow established to the donor organ and no signs of bleeding, rejection or infection," the hospital said in a statement.

"While the patient is still early in the post-surgical healing process, his physicians say they are cautiously optimistic he will regain function that he lost in 2012" after a penile cancer diagnosis led to most of his penis being amputated.

The penis came from a dead donor who matched Manning's blood type and skin tone. Manning expressed his gratitude to the donor and his family, which has asked to remain anonymous, and said he wanted to go public with his story to eliminate the shame and stigma associated with the loss of a penis.

System is breaking down

Warns Angelina Jolie-Pitt on refugee crisis; UNHCR chief says turning migrants away 'won't work'

BBC ONLINE

Angelina Jolie Pitt, the UN refugee agency's special envoy, has warned that the international humanitarian system for refugees is breaking down.

Jolie Pitt has been speaking as part of the BBC's World on the Move day of coverage of global migration issues. She warned against a "fear of migration" and a "race to the bottom" as countries competed to be the toughest to protect themselves.

Earlier, the UNHCR's head said the refugee crisis was now a global issue. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told the BBC that simply turning migrants away "won't work".

A range of speakers, including the UNHCR's special envoy Angelina Jolie Pitt,

and former British secret intelligence chief Sir Richard Dearlove, will set out the most important new ideas shaping our thinking on economic development, security and humanitarian assistance.

Jolie Pitt said that more than 60 million people - one in 122 - were displaced globally - more than at any time in the past 70 years.

"This tells us something deeply worrying about the peace and security of the world," she said, adding: "The average time a person will be displaced is now nearly 20 years."

Jolie Pitt said the "number of conflicts and scale of displacement had grown so large" the system to protect and return refugees was not working. She said that UN appeals were drastically underfunded.

