

# NEWS IN brief

## 41 migrants wash up on Libya beach

Volunteers have recovered the bodies of 41 presumed migrants that washed up on a beach of Tripoli. Officials said they think that these are people who drowned five or six days ago. Illegal migration from Libya booms in the summer months when the Mediterranean is generally calm and traffickers pack unsafe boats with migrants desperate to start a new life in Europe.

## Frantic search on for missing IAF plane

The Indian Air Force transport aircraft, which went missing over the Bay of Bengal with 29 people on board on Friday, remained untraced for the third day yesterday even as the search and rescue team scoured the sea and has now sought satellite imagery to find any clue of the plane. "There is

## Tough sentences urged in UK hate crime

Prosecutors will be urged to press for tougher sentences for perpetrators of hate crimes after a surge in reported incidents in the wake of the EU referendum. A new fund will also be established for "protective security measures" at synagogues, mosques, churches and other places of worship. The steps will be outlined in the UK government's new hate crime

## Solar Impulse 2 on final leg of world tour

The first solar-powered plane to circle the world took off from Cairo yesterday for Abu Dhabi, in the final leg of its journey. Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard was behind the controls of Solar Impulse 2, which can fly for days on only energy from the sun. "It's a project for energy, for a better



A Syrian man holds a child after it was taken from under the rubble of destroyed buildings following a reported air strike on the rebel-held neighbourhood of al-Marjah in the northern city of Aleppo, yesterday.

# IS terror strikes Baghdad, again

## 21 killed, 35 injured

Terror once again struck the streets of Iraq's capital yesterday, after a suicide bombing killed at least 21 people in a residential neighborhood in northern Baghdad. IS claimed responsibility for the attack on the predominantly Shia neighborhood of Kadhimiya, which also injured more than 35 others, Iraqi security officials said. The claim by IS was released by the terror group's media wing Amaq and on pro-IS social media accounts circulated by its supporters. Yesterday's attack came just weeks after the deadliest terror attack in war-weary Baghdad in years, when a suicide truck bomb plowed into a busy shopping district killing almost 300 people. The bomb-laden truck smashed into a building housing a coffee shop and stores shortly after midnight, when the surrounding streets were packed with people who had been gathering after breaking their Ramadan fasts. IS claimed responsibility for the attack in the Karrada district -- another mainly Shia area. IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, but Iraqi forces have since regained significant ground and are conducting operations to set the stage for the battle to recapture Mosul, the last IS-held city in the country. The jihadists have responded to the battlefield setbacks by striking civilians, and experts have warned there may be more such attacks as the jihadists continue to lose ground.

# Jets hit Aleppo hospitals

Suspected regime air raids have hit four makeshift hospitals in Syria's battered Aleppo city, doctors said yesterday, jeopardising medical care for more than 200,000 desperate civilians in rebel-held areas. The bombardment since Saturday has worsened the plight of residents of besieged eastern neighbourhoods of Syria's second city, where food and medical supplies are becoming increasingly scarce. The hospitals, as well as a blood bank that was hit, were located in the Al-Shaar neighbourhood, said the Independent Doctor's Association, a group of Syrian doctors that supports clinics in Aleppo. It said a two-day-old baby was killed in the children's hospital when his oxygen supply was cut after a raid during the early hours of Sunday. It was the second strike on the same hospital in about nine hours, according to the IDA. All four hospitals were out of service yesterday. According to the IDA, five hospitals are left operating in eastern neighbourhoods of Aleppo city, devastated by a regime siege that took hold earlier this month. According to the World Health

Organisation, Syria was the most dangerous place for health care workers to operate last year, with 135 attacks on health facilities and workers in 2015. Syria's conflict has so far killed at least 280,000 people and more than half the population have been forced to flee their homes. Repeated attempts -- particularly by the United States and regime ally Russia

### WAR IN SYRIA AND LIBYA

- Government loyalists capture IS bomb factory in Sirte
- Top Arab diplomats vow to defeat 'terror'
- Damascus says ready for UN talks without preconditions

without any preconditions, in the hopes that this dialogue will lead to a comprehensive solution". The statement, carried by state news agency SANA and quoting an anonymous foreign ministry official, also said Syria would be "ready to coordinate air operations against terrorism as part of the agreement between Russia and the United States." In Libya, forces loyal to Libya's unity government yesterday said they had seized a building used by the Islamic State group to manufacture explosives in its coastal stronghold. The bomb factory is the largest to be captured by fighters allied with the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) since they launched an operation to retake Sirte in May, the forces said on Facebook. The violence came after Arab foreign ministers on Saturday vowed to "defeat terrorism", as they gathered for a regional summit. In a statement, they also called for a "definitive solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as Arab League heads of state prepared to meet in the Mauritanian capital on Monday and Tuesday. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Saudi King Salman are both expected to attend the upcoming

# Divided Asean deadlocked

Southeast Asian nations were deadlocked yesterday about how to confront China's territorial claims in the South China Sea as pressure from Beijing again drove a wedge between countries on the region's toughest security challenge. Their gathering in the Laos capital is the first time regional players -- including China and the United States -- have met en masse since a UN-backed tribunal delivered a hammer blow to Beijing's claim to vast stretches of the sea. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) boasts four countries who have competing claims with Beijing to parts of the sea, and is fiercely divided on the issue. Rival claimants have accused China of deftly forging alliances with smaller member countries like Laos, this year's host, and Cambodia through aid and loans to divide the once consensus-driven bloc. The main sticking point was over whether to refer to the international tribunal ruling and if so how, a Southeast Asia diplomat told AFP. Some countries are pushing to include a reference that urges all countries to fully "respect diplomatic and legal process", he said -- in line with statements released by the European Union, the US and Japan following the UN-backed decision. Other countries are opposing any mention of the ruling. Another diplomat said it was unlikely a statement would be issued on Sunday and if one was published in the coming days it would likely be "really watered down".



# MUNICH MALL SHOOTING

## Teenage killer planned attack 'for a year'

The teenage gunman who killed nine people in Munich on Friday had been planning his attack for a year, German authorities said yesterday. David Sonbol, 18, who had a Glock pistol and more than 300 bullets, killed himself after the attack. The Bavarian State Crime Office said he had bought the illegal pistol used in the attack on the internet. Vigils continue in the Bavarian capital to commemorate the victims, seven of whom were teenagers. A further 35 people were injured. The crime office told a news conference that the victims of the attack had not been specifically targeted and were not classmates of the gunman. The news conference also heard that Sonbol had spent two months as an inpatient at a mental care facility in 2015 and was afterwards treated as an outpatient. Officials said there was no evidence of any political motivation. MACHETE ATTACK KILLS 1. A 21-year-old Syrian asylum-seeker yesterday killed a woman and injured two people with a machete in the southwest German city of Reutlingen in an incident local police said did not bear the hallmarks of a "terrorist attack". A statement said that the man, who was arrested, "had a dispute" with the woman and killed her "with a machete" before injuring a second woman and a man. The attacker was "known to police", it said.

# Trump: US may quit WTO

## Says terror-hit countries like France may face more screening

Republican White House nominee Donald Trump yesterday suggested that the United States could pull out of the World Trade Organization if he is elected president. The New York billionaire made the comments during a wide-ranging interview with NBC television's "Meet the Press," his first since being crowned as his party's presidential nominee. Trump, who has already threatened to renegotiate or rip up the North American Free Trade Agreement, also doubled down in the interview on recent comments questioning the US commitment to its Nato allies. He said he would slap punitive import taxes of up to 30 percent on firms that moved manufacturing activities abroad, citing NAFTA partner Mexico as an example. When show host Chuck Todd objected that such plans would be challenged at the

WTO, he responded: "Doesn't matter. We'll renegotiate or pull out. These trade deals are a disaster, Chuck. World Trade Organization is a disaster." Asked if he was concerned such actions could rattle the world economy -- much as the British decision to exit the European Union has done -- Trump was dismissive. "I'm the only one that said Brexit is going to happen," said the billionaire. "What did it do? The stock market is higher now than when it happened." In the same interview, Trump said that French and German citizens could face "extreme" vetting at US borders in light of recent terror attacks in both countries. Regarding the United States' Nato commitments, Trump was unapologetic, repeating that he intended to force allies to shoulder defense costs that the United States has borne for decades. "We can no longer be the stupid country."



Afghan men dig graves for victims of a twin suicide attack, in Kabul, yesterday. Kabul was plunged into mourning yesterday after the deadliest attack for 15 years killed 80 people and left hundreds maimed, reigniting concern that the Islamic State group was seeking to expand its foothold in Afghanistan.

# Turkey disbands presidential guard

## Cross-party rally staged to condemn attempted coup, in support of democracy

Turkey's elite presidential guard is to be disbanded after nearly 300 of its members were detained following last week's failed coup. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told a TV channel that there was "no need" for the regiment. Earlier, Turkey detained a nephew of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen who, it says, was behind the uprising. He strongly denies the claim. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched a widespread crackdown following the attempted coup, arresting thousands of service personnel and sacking or suspending thousands of government officials, school teachers and university heads. Meanwhile, Turkey yesterday staged its first cross-party rally to condemn the bloody coup attempt. The mass pro-democracy event, held under tight security on Istanbul's iconic Taksim square



from 1500 GMT, was called for by the biggest opposition group, the secular and centre-left Republican People's Party. But to signal patriotic unity, it will be joined by Erdogan's Islamic-conservative AKP, whose followers have turned city squares red with seas of Turkish flags every night since the failed putsch. A state of emergency was declared on Wednesday, allowing the president and cabinet

to bypass parliament when drafting new laws and to restrict or suspend rights and freedoms. "There will no longer be a presidential guard, there is no purpose, there is no need," Yildirim told the A Haber TV channel. The presidential guard numbers up to 2,500 soldiers but at least 283 were detained after the uprising. On Saturday, Erdogan extended the period in which suspects can be detained without charge to 30 days. A statement carried by state media also ordered the closure of more than 1,000 private schools and more than 1,200 associations. President Erdogan's tough measures have been criticised by human rights groups, as well as by France, Germany and senior EU officials. Erdogan told France 24 television on Saturday the EU was "biased and prejudiced" against Turkey. Amnesty International has said Erdogan is going "well beyond what might be considered a

# Stop cynical use of Benghazi issue in poll campaign

## Mother of ambassador Stevens rips GOP, Trump

The mother of the late US Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens—who was killed in the 2012 attack on the US diplomatic compound and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya—has called for an "immediate and permanent stop" to the use of her son's name by GOP leaders and Donald Trump in his presidential campaign, calling the practice "opportunistic and cynical." "As Ambassador J Christopher Stevens's mother, I am writing to object to any mention of his name and death in Benghazi, Libya, by Donald Trump's campaign and the Republican Party," Mary Commanday said in a letter-to-the-editor published in the

New York Times on Saturday. "I know for certain that Chris would not have wanted his name or memory used in that connection. I hope that there will be an immediate and permanent stop to this opportunistic and cynical use by the campaign." Republicans have repeatedly criticized presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton for the way she handled the Benghazi attack as then-Secretary of State. The mother of another US Foreign Service official killed in the Benghazi attack spoke at the Republican National Convention this week, faulting Clinton for her son's death. Trump has done the same in his own speeches.

