



Syrians gather at the site of a bomb attack in Syria's northeastern city of Qamishli, yesterday. A double bomb attack killed at least 44 people including civilians and left scores wounded in a Kurdish-majority city in northeast Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Story on page 16.

Floods, landslides kill 58 in Nepal

AGENCIES
At least 58 people have died in floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Nepal, the government said yesterday. Another 20 people are missing and the Nepal army is racing to evacuate hundreds more from flooded villages as the waters rise. Scores of houses and bridges have been swept away in several parts of the country as incessant rains have swelled rivers, posing a threat of massive flooding and causing panic among the local population. The home ministry spokesman said 58 people were confirmed dead and another 20 were still unaccounted for. "Our teams are working continuously in search and rescue operations, as well as to provide relief," deputy spokesman Jhanka Nath Dhakal told AFP. Images released by the army, which is involved in the operation, showed villagers waiting on rooftops to be evacuated in motorboats. Scores of people die every year from flooding and landslides during the monsoon rains in Nepal and neighbouring India. Earlier this month, two children were killed when a school in the capital partially collapsed in heavy rains. The situation is particularly desperate this year because millions of Nepalis are still living in tents or makeshift huts after a devastating earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people in 2015. Water levels were close to dangerous levels in Saptakoshi and Narayani rivers. Water flow in the Saptakoshi river has crossed this year's highest mark after continuous rainfall for the past 10 days. Water flow in the river was measured at 277,410 cusec on Tuesday morning, the highest for this year. All sluice gates in the Gandak Barrage bordering India have been opened after the water level in Narayani river crossed the danger mark. The gates were opened to allow release of water so that the risk in the barrage and upstream region could be minimised.

Purge 'not complete': PM

AGENCIES
Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim warned the crackdown following a failed coup attempt was "not completed yet" and there could be more arrests, he told Sky News yesterday. "The investigation is continuing, there are people who are being searched for. There could be new apprehensions, arrests and detentions," Yildirim said, according to the network's translation of his remarks. Turkey yesterday issued arrest warrants for 47 former staff of the Zaman newspaper as part of a sweeping crackdown since the attempted power grab on July 15. In the attempted coup of July 15, renegade soldiers sought to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan but were stopped by crowds of civilians and loyalist security forces. At least 270 people were killed on both sides.

COUP ATTEMPT IN TURKEY

- Detention of 47 more journos ordered
- Military says coup-plotting soldiers account for 1.5pc of force
- Minister says anti-Gulen army purge planned before coup

The failed power grab sent shockwaves through Turkish life, and more than 15,000 people have since been detained. More than 9,000 of them have been placed in custody ahead of trial over the coup. The swoop on newspaper staff came after authorities on Monday issued another 42 arrest warrants for journalists, including prominent veteran reporters. London-based rights group Amnesty International said that they represented a "draconian clampdown on freedom of expression".

Meanwhile, a key minister yesterday said Turkish authorities were planning a major shake-up of the military to remove elements linked to US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen just ahead of the failed coup. Energy Minister Berat Albayrak, who is the son-in-law of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, suggested parts of the military had wanted to act against the government as they knew they were about to be purged. A major shake-up of the Turkish armed forces is expected to be announced today when the country's Supreme Military Council meets. With 143 generals and more than 3,000 soldiers arrested on suspicion of links to the coup, there are gaping holes in the command structure which will have to be filled. The Turkish military yesterday said that 8,651 soldiers took part in a failed attempt to overthrow the government earlier this month, accounting for

1917 BALFOUR DECLARATION AND CREATION OF ISRAEL Palestine may sue UK

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
The Palestinian president has announced his intention to sue the British Government over a 1917 declaration that paved the way for the creation of Israel. Mahmoud Abbas' statement, delivered in his absence by foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki, was given at the opening of this week's Arab League summit in Mauritania. It called on other states in the alliance to help the Palestinian government launch a lawsuit against the UK over the Balfour Declaration and the subsequent creation of Israel in 1948. Abbas accused Britain of supporting "Israeli crimes" since the end of the Mandate for Palestine, and claimed the country was among the parties responsible for the exodus of Palestinian refugees. "Nearly a century has passed since the issuance of the Balfour Declaration in 1917," his statement said according to a transcript published by the Wafa news agency.

"And based on this ill-omened promise hundreds of thousands of Jews were moved from Europe and elsewhere to Palestine at the expense of our Palestinian people whose parents and grandparents had lived for thousands of years on the soil of their homeland." Riyad al-Maliki told delegates in Nouakchott the lawsuit would be filed in an international court but did not give details. A letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lionel Walter Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish Community, it said the government of the time favoured the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people in Palestine". The text was read as support for the Zionist movement and was later incorporated into a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire and the British Mandate for Palestine, despite contradicting other agreements. Israel declared independence in 1948 after the mandate expired and won the subsequent Arab-Israeli War, prompting significant

NEWS IN brief

- Barnier to lead EU's Brexit talks**
AFP, Brussels
Veteran French politician and former EU commissioner Michel Barnier was named yesterday to lead Brexit talks with London where he was the "bete noire" of free-wheeling bankers hostile to his bonus curbs and tighter regulations. European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker said Barnier was just the man to lead what promise to be difficult talks as he has contacts needed to win agreement.
- Ex-Thai PM turns on junta's draft charter**
AFP, Bangkok
A former prime minister whose party supported Thailand's last coup lambasted the junta's new constitution yesterday before a referendum on it, a rare blow to the army from within its own political camp. The junta says the new document is crucial to tackling corruption and ending a decade of political turmoil that has torn the
- 'Suicide bomber was ex-Somali MP'**
AFP, Mogadishu
A former Somali MP who joined the Shabaab group in 2010 was one of two suicide bombers who killed 13 people near a United Nations and African Union base, the militants announced yesterday. Salah Badbado, 53, served in Somalia's parliament from 2004 until 2010, when he declared at a press conference he was leaving politics to join the Somali al-Qaeda affiliate.
- Indian women beaten for carrying beef**
AFP, New Delhi
Two Muslim women have been beaten up at a railway station in central India on suspicion of carrying beef, an offence in many parts of the Hindu-majority country. The meat the women were carrying has since turned out to be buffalo, but police in Madhya Pradesh state said they were attacked on Tuesday at a busy station, apparently after a group of vigilantes raised suspicions.
- Goodbye Philae**
AFP, Paris
Ground controllers yesterday bid a final farewell to robot lab Philae, cutting communications after a year-long silence with the tiny probe hurtling through space on the surface of a comet. "Today communication with Philae was stopped," Andreas Schuetz of German space agency DLR told AFP from ground control in Cologne.

HILLARY CLINTON

AGE 68
26 October 1947
Born in Chicago (Illinois)

- 1969 Yale Law School, meets Bill Clinton
- 1974-75 Completes her doctorate, becomes a lawyer at the Children's Defense Fund
- 1975 Marries Bill Clinton
- 1980 Birth of her only child, Chelsea
- 1993-2001 US first lady
- 2001-2009 Senator for New York
- 2002 Votes in favour of the war in Iraq
- Aug 2008 Loses Democratic nomination to Barack Obama
- 2009-2013 Secretary of State
- 11 September 2012 US diplomatic compound in Libya is attacked. Criticised for her management of security
- Mars 2015 Controversy over her use of a private email server while secretary of state
- April 2015 Announces her candidacy for the Democratic presidential primaries
- June 2016 Wins the presidential nomination
- 27 July 2016 First woman in history to win the White House nomination of a major political party

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, DAY 2

"What an incredible honor that you have given me. And I can't believe we just put the biggest crack in that glass ceiling yet" -- **Hillary Clinton**

"That's why you should elect her, because she'll never quit when the going gets tough. She'll never quit on you" -- **Bill Clinton**

"These are perilous times. We need someone with a strong heart, a deep understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities, and a steady hand. (...) A united Democratic Party will prevail in November" -- **Jimmy Carter**

"She knows that safeguarding freedom and security is not like hosting a TV reality show" -- **Madeleine Albright**

"Mr. Trump, come this November, women are going to be a lot more than an inconvenience. Women are going to be the reason you're not elected president" -- **Cecile Richards**



A young girl prays near flowers and candles at the town hall in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen in Normandy, France, to pay tribute to French priest, Father Jacques Hamel, who was killed with a knife and another hostage seriously wounded in an attack on a church that was carried out by assailants linked to Islamic State, on Tuesday.

'Anything is possible'

Obama says 'stay worried' about Trump amid Russian meddling claims; Assange promises more email leaks

AFP, Washington
US President Barack Obama yesterday warned Democrats that anything was possible in the US elections and to "stay worried until all the votes are counted." Obama, who is the keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention, was asked in an interview with NBC's Today Show whether Republican candidate Donald Trump could defeat the Democrat's Hillary Clinton. "Anything is possible," he said. "As somebody who has now been in elected office at various levels for about 20 years, I have seen all kinds of crazy stuff happen, and I think everybody that goes into campaigns not running scared can end up losing. "My advice to Democrats is you stay worried until all the votes are cast and counted, because one of the dangers in an election like this is that people don't take the challenge seriously, they stay home, and we end up getting something else."

Hillary Clinton's campaign has blamed Russia for an embarrassing leak of emails from the Democratic National Committee. "Anything is possible," Obama said when asked in the interview about the hack. "Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed admiration for Vladimir Putin," Obama said in an excerpt of the interview that aired earlier. Kremlin yesterday denied interfering in the US election campaign. Earlier on Tuesday Wikileaks founder Julian Assange said his whistleblowing website might release "a lot more material" relevant to the US electoral campaign. Assange was speaking in a CNN interview following the release of nearly 20,000 emails stolen from the Democratic National Committee by suspected Russian hackers. Assange told CNN that Democratic Party officials were using the specter of Russian involvement to distract from the content of the emails, which have had tumultuous affect on the party at the start of its national convention.

France aims to ease religious tensions

Top faith leaders meet Hollande

AFP, Paris
French President Francois Hollande yesterday sought to head off religious tensions and defuse criticism over security failings after jihadists killed an elderly Catholic priest in his church. Hollande met with top religious leaders as a violence-weary France mourned Tuesday's attack, which came less than two weeks after the Bastille Day truck massacre that killed 84 people in the southern city of Nice. France's large Catholic community was in shock after two men stormed into a church in the northern town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray during morning mass and slit the 86-year-old priest's throat at the altar. Another man was left seriously injured in the attack. Dalil Boubakeur, the head of France's Muslim community, voiced his "deep grief" at the attack which he described as a "blasphemous sacrilege which goes against all the teachings of our religion". One of the attackers was identified as French jihadist Adel Kermiche, 19, who was awaiting trial on terror charges and had been fitted with an electronic tag despite calls from the prosecutor for him not to be released. Residents of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray were struggling to come to terms with the bloodshed in their small town, so far from France's tourist hubs. They made their way to a makeshift memorial to lay flowers, candles and messages of peace -- a ritual that has become chillingly familiar from Brussels and Paris to Nice and Munich, all cities that have been struck by attackers inspired by the Islamic State group.

PHOTO: REUTERS