

# NEWS IN brief

## UN peace plan on Yemen in limbo

Yemen's government on Sunday accepted a UN-proposed plan to end fighting that has killed thousands, but the rebels rejected it, insisting that any settlement must first tackle a unity administration. The draft agreement, which follows several months of UN-brokered negotiations in Kuwait, stipulates that the Iran-backed Huthi Shia rebels must withdraw from Sanaa, which they overran in September 2014.

## Palestinian 'knife attacker' shot dead

A Palestinian armed with a knife charged at Israeli soldiers on the outskirts of the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank yesterday and was shot dead, the Israeli army said. A wave of such incidents began in October, part of violence since that time that has killed at least 219 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese.

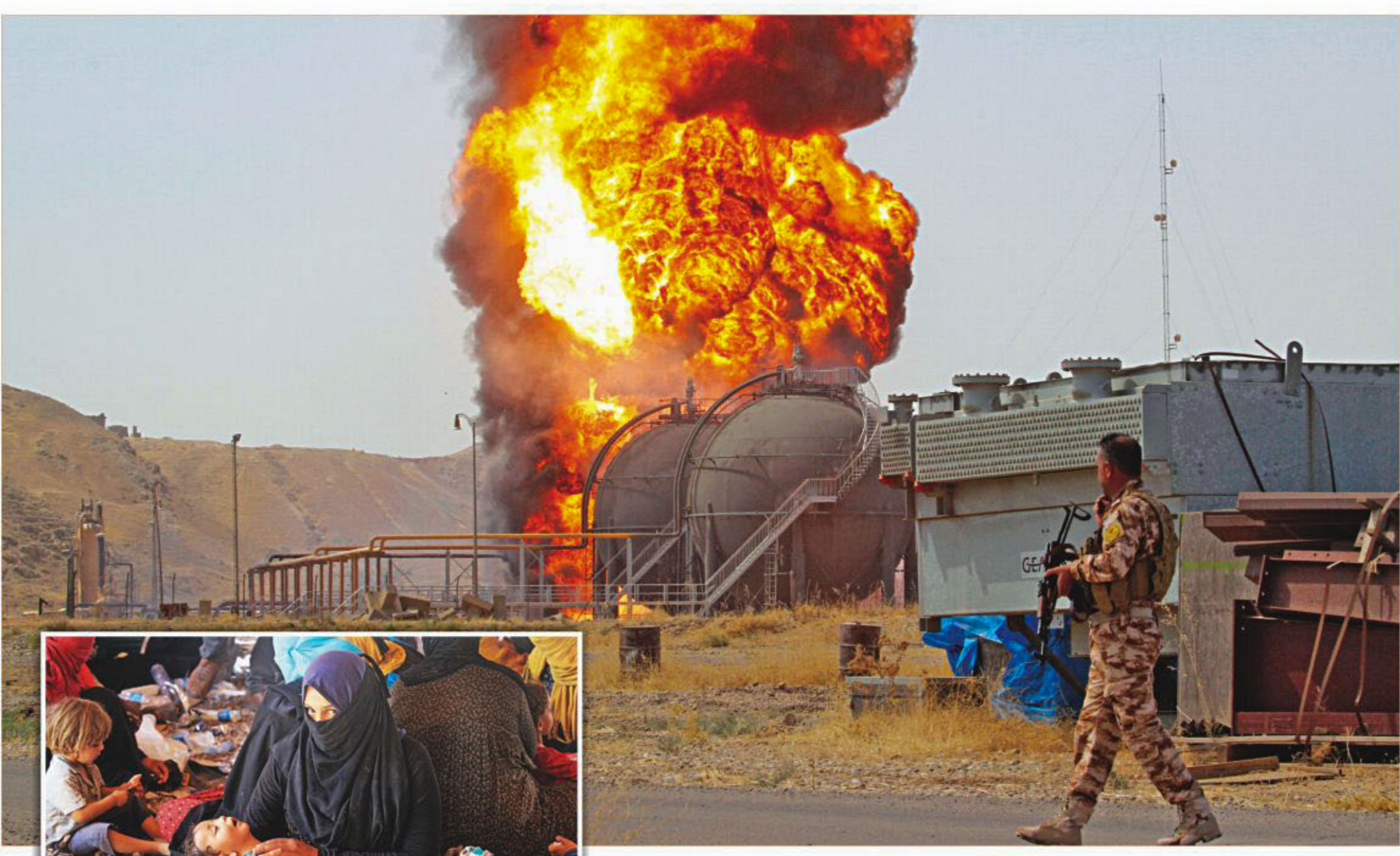
## Mother and daughter 'gang-raped' in India

A mother and her teenage daughter were allegedly gang-raped in a field after being dragged from their car in Uttar Pradesh, police said yesterday. India's latest brutal sexual attack. A gang of robbers allegedly stopped the family's car along a busy highway early on Saturday. The mother has told officers that she and her 14-year-old daughter were pulled from the vehicle and raped by six men. The family's four male members have said they were tied up with ropes and their belongings stolen while the attack took place.



## Download a good heart: Pope Francis

Pope Francis yesterday wrapped up his Polish visit with a huge outdoor Mass where he told young people to look beyond the instant gratification afforded by technology, and instead to try to change the world. Francis, 79, who has said he is a "disaster" with technology, sprinkled his sermon at the last major event of the trip with social media and technology terms. He urged the young people to "download" the best "link" of all, that of a heart which sees and transmits goodness without growing weary. Francis encouraged them to continue "to be dreamers (who) believe in a new humanity, one that rejects hatred between peoples, one that refuses to see borders as barriers".



A member of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces walks as smoke rises after an attack at Bai Hassan oil station, northwest of Kirkuk, Iraq, yesterday. Inset, A displaced Iraqi woman, who fled her home due to Islamic State violence, holds her child on the outskirts of Al-Shirqat, south of Mosul, Iraq.

# 40pc of Manbij retaken

Militants' attacks on Kirkuk oil field kill 5; IS leaders, families flee Mosul as offensive looms

Advancing Kurdish and Arab fighters backed by US-led air strikes now control 40 percent of the Islamic State stronghold of Manbij in northern Syria, a monitor said yesterday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Syrian Democratic Forces had pushed deeper into the town near the border with Turkey, with air cover from the US-led coalition against the jihadists. Around 2,300 civilians have fled Manbij in the past 24 hours as the SDF fighters advanced, according to the Britain-based monitor. It said clashes between the joint forces and IS fighters were continuing in several parts of the town. Meanwhile, UN deputy Syria envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy invited Damascus to new peace talks with the opposition at the end of August, drawing a positive response from the government. More than 280,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. In Iraq, Defence Minister Khalid al-Obeidi has said that Islamic State group leaders and their families have sold their belongings and fled Mosul as Iraqi forces

close in on the northern city. Iraqi forces are conducting operations to set the stage for an assault on Mosul, the country's second city that has been held by IS since June 2014, but the final push to retake it is likely still months away. Mosul is the last city held by IS in Iraq, but retaking it poses a major challenge, and the operation could unleash a humanitarian crisis unless plans are made for people who would likely flee the fighting. The Red Cross has said it believes that up to a million Iraqis could be displaced in the coming months by fighting against IS, including the operation to recapture Mosul. Meanwhile, IS militants assaulted a gas facility and a nearby oil field in north Iraq yesterday, killing five people in rare attacks inside Kurdish-controlled areas of Kirkuk province, officials said. Gunmen travelling on motorbikes opened fire on the gas facility's guards, then killed four of its employees and planted multiple bombs before escaping, officials said. Militants also attacked the nearby Bai Hassan oil field, the largest in oil-rich Kirkuk province, killing an engineer and sparking a major fire, officials said.

WAR ON IS IN SYRIA, IRAQ

## Texas shooting kills 1, gunman still at large

At least one person was killed and four others wounded in a shooting in Austin, Texas early yesterday, with police warning that the shooter was still at large. The incident began shortly after 2:15am (0715 GMT) in a busy downtown area filled with bars and nightclubs, with police warning people on Twitter to steer clear of the area due to an "active shooter". One woman was killed and three other women were rushed to a local hospital with gunshot wounds, the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services said. Police later confirmed there had been a second, separate shooting incident in the area, which took place just minutes later, although only the gunman was injured.

# TERROR ATTACK IN SOMALIA CAPITAL

## Car bombs, assault on police base kill 6

Six people were killed in a gun and car-bomb assault on a police building in the centre of the Somali capital that also left seven assailants dead, Security Minister Abdirasak Omar Mohamed said yesterday. Some of the attackers rammed two cars into the building in central Mogadishu and others tried to storm it, he told reporters. "All of the seven gunmen have been killed, some of them were shot by the security forces and others detonated themselves," he said. "Five civilians died in the road and one policeman, so the overall casualty number of deaths is 13," he added. Earlier, security official Ibrahim Mohamed told AFP that "terrorist elements" had smashed two cars packed full of explosives into the headquarters of the police's criminal investigations department. An AFP correspondent heard an exchange of gunfire after the explosions, which took place near a busy junction in the city. Al Jazeera said Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab militants, who are fighting to overthrow Somalia's internationally-backed government, claimed responsibility of the attack. The blasts came just days after at least 13 people were killed in twin bombings near Mogadishu airport and UN and African Union buildings. That attack was also claimed Shabaab militants. The Shabaab were forced out of the capital five years ago but continue to carry out regular attacks on military, government and civilian targets. In recent months they have claimed deadly assaults on military bases as well as civilian targets including hotels.

# HE TAINTED ISLAM

Muslim community refuses to bury French priest killer

The Muslim community in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in northern France, where two jihadists slit Father Jacques Hamel's throat, is refusing to bury one of the attackers, saying that he put a stain on Islam, the French media reported. Algerian-born 19-year-old Adel Kermiche was one of the two attackers who killed the 85-year-old priest and seriously injured an elderly parishioner. A French citizen, he was living in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray and attempted to join Islamic jihadists in Syria back in 2015. "We're not going to taint Islam with this person," Mohammed Karabila, a leader at a local mosque, told Le Parisien newspaper, "We won't participate in preparing the body [for the burial] or the burial." A Muslim worshiper, Khalid El Amrani, supported the move, saying that the refusal to bury the terrorist is "nor-

mal." "What this young man did is sinful," the 25-year-old engineer said, "He is no longer part of our community." Now it is up to the local authorities to decide how to issue the burial permit for Kermiche. Father Hamel was killed on Tuesday after having his throat slit during a hostage situation at the local church. French police killed the attackers, Kermiche and 19-year-old Abdel Malik Petitjean, as they tried to flee the 17th century Catholic Church. The pair had previously pledged allegiance to the so-called Islamic State terrorist group, who subsequently claimed responsibility for the attack. Following the tragedy French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said he was considering a temporary ban on the foreign financing of mosques. Speaking to Le Monde newspaper on Friday, Valls said France needed to re-think its relationship with Islam.



# FOOD CRISIS IN SAUDI, QATAR! India moves to feed its stranded workers

New Delhi was working yesterday to feed more than 10,000 Indian labourers stranded in the Gulf with no wages after losing their jobs, in what Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj called a "food crisis". In a series of tweets, Swaraj said the migrant workers were facing "extreme hardship" and that two junior foreign ministers will be sent to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to take up the issue with authorities. "Large number of Indians have lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The employers have not paid wages (and) closed down their factories," Swaraj said late on Saturday. "As a result our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are facing extreme hardship. While situation in Kuwait is manageable, matters are much worse in Saudi Arabia. "The number of Indian workers facing food crisis in Saudi Arabia is over ten thousand." Indians are among millions of poor Asians working in the Gulf states where human rights groups say many suffer exploitation and abuses including non-payment of wages, with no channels for redress. Indian media yesterday said the workers were "starving" in camps with no way of returning home, as Gulf countries face a drop in oil revenues from falling prices, prompting a downturn in construction and layoffs.

# 'One IS attack in every 84 hrs'



In the past week we have seen flowers and candles carpeting a street in Munich, the tranquility of a small Bavarian town shattered by a suicide bomb and a small church in suburban France sealed off after its octogenarian priest had his throat cut. Before these horrific events, there was a knife-wielding teenager on a German train. And before that, much deadlier attacks in Nice, Brussels and last November, in Paris. This year has seen an accelerating pattern of attacks linked to IS in Europe and beyond -- from Turkey to Bangladesh, the United States to Indonesia. According to the group IntelCenter, which tracks acts of terrorism, there has been a significant attack directed or inspired by IS every 84 hours since June 8 in cities outside the war zones in Iraq, Syria, Sinai in Egypt and Libya. More than half of those attacks have been beyond big cities in places "not traditionally under threat of terrorist attacks," says IntelCenter. This rash of random, low-tech but deadly attacks has fueled public unease in Europe and eroded faith in governments to tackle the threat of terrorism or discern who might turn to violence. It has also diminished trust in justice systems accused of leaving too many dangerous people at large. Despite twice trying to go to Syria, Adel Kermiche -- one of the 19-year-old attackers who killed the priest in France -- was released from custody and allowed out of his home for four hours a day. Despite repeated efforts

to deport him, the Ansbach bomber -- Daleel Mohammad -- was still in Germany. Apart from public unease and disbelief, these attacks have also prompted fundamental social questions. Respect for openness, liberal democracy and due process are being eaten away by a toxic mixture of extremism and psychosis. Intelligence analysts Flashpoint Partners say there is "more coordination between potential lone actors or small unofficial cells with jihadi media -- a way to guarantee that their message is disseminated and to prove their allegiance to ISIS without necessarily joining its ranks."

TERROR ATTACKS TESTING THE VERY FABRIC OF EUROPE

The consistent public message from IS over the past year or so has been: "Don't come to Syria; kill the unbelievers at home." In a poll after the attack in Nice, more than two-thirds of the French people questioned said they did not trust the government to combat terrorism effectively, a sharp increase over the previous year. France has deployed 4,000 troops in Paris; another 6,000 beyond. Bavarian Premier Horst Seehofer has called for similar measures in Germany. But it seems even 100,000 troops could not guard against these random attacks. The answer is internment without

# MODERN SLAVERY UK PM vows to defeat 'barbaric evil'

Britain will lead the fight against modern slavery, Theresa May has said, vowing to make it her mission to help rid the world of the "barbaric evil". Writing in The Sunday Telegraph, the prime minister called it "the great human rights issue of our time". She said a new UK cabinet taskforce would tackle the "sickening and inhuman crimes" while £33m from the aid budget would fund initiatives overseas. The most recent Home Office estimates suggest there are between 10,000 and 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK, with 45 million estimated victims across the world. Victims are said to include women forced into prostitution, "imprisoned" domestic staff and workers in fields, factories and fishing boats. May said: "From nail bars and car washes to sheds and rundown caravans, people are enduring experiences that are simply horrifying in their inhumanity. "Innocent individuals are being tricked into prostitution, often by people they thought they could trust. Children are being made to pick-pocket on the streets and steal from cash machines." The Modern Slavery Act 2015 states an offence is committed if someone holds another in slavery or servitude or requires them to perform forced or compulsory labour.



# Fury as Trump mocks slain Muslim soldier's mother

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has attracted outrage by mocking a dead US Muslim soldier's mother. Ghazala Khan stood silently next to her husband as he attacked Trump in an emotional speech to the Democratic National Convention on Thursday. Trump suggested she may not have been allowed to speak. Republicans and Democrats said the Republican candidate's comments were no way to talk of a hero's mother. Last week her husband Khizr Khan told Democrats Trump had sacrificed "nothing and no-one" for his country. At the convention in Philadelphia, he said his son would not even have been in America if it had been up to Trump, who has called for a ban on Muslims entering the US. Humayun Khan was killed by a car bomb in 2004 in Iraq at the age of 27. Trump responded to the criticism in an interview with ABC's This Week. "If you look at his wife, she was standing there," he said, "She had nothing to say... Maybe she wasn't allowed to have anything to say. You tell me." In an interview for ABC on Saturday, Ghazala Khan said: "When I was standing there, all of America felt my pain, without a single word. I don't know how he missed that." "Running for president is not an entitlement to disrespect... a Gold Star mother, shame on him," Khizr Khan said. "He has no decency, he has a dark heart."



Ghazala Khan and Khizr Khan