

NEWS IN brief

29 killed as migrant boat capsizes off Egypt

REUTERS, Cairo
A boat carrying around 600 migrants has capsized off the Egyptian coast, killing at least 29 people, security sources and local officials said yesterday. Rescue workers have saved 150 people. The boat was carrying Egyptian, Syrian, and African migrants. It was not immediately clear where the boat was headed, though some security sources said they believed it was going to Italy.

Brazil's Lula to stand trial for corruption

AFP, Brasilia
Brazil's former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva must stand trial for corruption, a judge ruled Tuesday, after prosecutors accused the popular leftist of masterminding the large-scale plundering of state oil company Petrobras. The crusading judge behind the Petrobras investigation, Sergio Moro, accepted charges filed last week by prosecutors investigating Lula.



Corbyn set to win in UK leadership race

AFP, London
Britain's Labour Party faces a deadlock in a power struggle between the party's centrist lawmakers and its leftist leader Jeremy Corbyn, as ballots closed yesterday. Corbyn is expected to win by a clear margin when the result is announced on Saturday. Experts warn rift inside Labour could condemn the party to being in opposition for several years and increase chances of a "hard Brexit".



Police officers wearing riot gear block a road during protests after police fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Charlotte, North Carolina, US on Tuesday. Protesters blocked a highway and clashed with police there, early yesterday after officers fatally shot a black man they said had a gun when they approached him in a parking lot. PHOTO: REUTERS

ANKARA KNIFE ATTACK

Man shot outside Israel embassy

AFP, Ankara
A mentally disturbed Turkish man wielding a knife tried to storm the Israeli embassy in Ankara yesterday but was shot before reaching the building, Turkish and Israeli officials said. The man, armed with a 12-inch knife, ran towards the embassy shouting slogans and was shot in the leg, the governor's office in the Turkish capital said in a statement. It said initial investigations showed that the man, named as Osman Nuri Caliskan, "appeared to be mentally disturbed" and had no record of links with any militant group. Suat Cencer, a florist working nearby, said he heard four shots and then ran to the embassy to see what had happened. "I saw a man who had been shot in the leg. I didn't see a knife but other witnesses said he had a knife and he would set a bomb off," he told AFP at the scene. Large numbers of police vehicles were at the scene and the local road was closed, an AFP correspondent said, while news channel CNN-Turk reported that a suspicious package was being investigated. Israel's foreign ministry said the assailant was shot by a local guard and that all its embassy staff were safe. "The assailant was wounded in the foot. We don't know if he was attacking police officers or the embassy itself," foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said in a statement. He added that the man reached the "outer perimeter" of the embassy and investigations were ongoing.

Israel 'can't permanently occupy Palestinian land': Obama

AGENCIES
Barack Obama has told Israel it cannot permanently occupy and settle on Palestinian land in a speech to the United Nations. The US president said both sides would benefit if Israel recognised it cannot permanently occupy the land and if Palestinians rejected incitement and recognised Israel's legitimacy. "Surely Israelis and Palestinians will be better off if Palestinians reject incitement and recognize the legitimacy of Israel," he said on Tuesday. "But Israel must recognise that it cannot permanently occupy and settle Palestinian land." He added: "We all have to do better as leaders in tamping down, rather than encouraging, a notion of identity that leads us to diminish others." Following his speech, the president was set to raise concerns about Israeli settlement activity in Arab lands during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York yesterday. Last week, Obama endorsed Israel's record 10-year, \$38 billion US military aid contract -- a predictable deal, but one which emphasized tensions. Earlier, Obama used his farewell

UN address to castigate strongmen and populists, taking aim at Vladimir Putin -- who has invaded Ukraine and Donald Trump's rise at home. Obama told the UN General Assembly that democracy remains the "firmest foundation for human progress" as he repudiated "crude populism" that has mushroomed in the United States and around the world. But he admitted there were "deep fault lines in the existing international order," not least in the Middle East where "basic order has broken down" and fundamentalists prey on social unease. He admitted too that a "course correction" was needed to smooth the serrated edges of globalization.

OBAMA'S LAST UN SPEECH

- Bats for democracy, hits out at 'crude populism' around the world
- Admits deep fault lines in the existing international order
- Says no military solution in Syria, backs 'hard work' of diplomacy
- Accuses Russia, China of trying to dominate world affairs 'through force'

"A world in which one percent of humanity controls as much wealth as the other 99 percent will never be stable," he warned. Obama had a more direct message for his Russian counterpart, accusing Putin -- who has invaded Ukraine and deployed forces to Syria -- of using the military to gain global clout. "In a world that left the age of empire behind, we see Russia attempting to recover lost glory through force," Obama said. By the same token, Obama warned China's increasingly powerful leader Xi Jinping that adhering to the rule of law offers "far greater stability than the militarization of a few rocks and reefs" in the South China Sea. Eight years ago at his first UN General Assembly -- with America's reputation tattered by the Iraq war and George W Bush's unilateralism -- Obama promised a "new era of engagement." After two terms in the Oval Office, Obama restated the case for multilateralism and an America that knows the limits of its own might. And even as a Syrian ceasefire brokered by Washington lay in tatters, Obama insisted diplomacy -- not force -- is the only way to end the brutal five-year conflict.

Syria faces 'make or break moment'

Warns Ban as UNSC crisis meet opens; Kerry calls to ground all regime planes as US-Russia spar over aid convoy attack

AFP, Aleppo
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday warned it was a "make or break moment" for Syria as the UN Security Council held crisis talks yesterday on reviving a failed ceasefire. US Secretary of State John Kerry demanded that Russia force Bashar al-Assad's regime to ground its air force in order to revive hopes. Addressing the UN Security Council, including his Russian opposite number Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Kerry said efforts to find peace could yet be salvaged but only if Moscow takes responsibility for recent air strikes. Kerry said that only Russian and Syrian war planes had been active in areas of northern Syria where on Monday a United Nations aid convoy had been destroyed from the air and on Tuesday a field clinic was bombed. Moscow has rejected the idea that Russian or Syrian planes carried out Monday's strike on the UN aid convoy, and Lavrov told the council that there would be "no more unilat-

eral pauses" by Assad's government forces. Russian military spokesman Igor Konashenkov yesterday claimed a Predator drone from the US-led coalition was in the air over the aid convoy in Syria when it was destroyed. Bombardment has escalated across the country since Monday evening, when Syria's military declared an end to the week-long truce that had brought relative calm to major fronts. Hours after the Monday's announcement, an air strike hit an aid convoy near Aleppo, killing 20 civilians and destroying 18 trucks, the Red Cross said. Monday's strike sparked international outrage and prompted an exasperated UN to suspend all humanitarian convoys across Syria. On the ground, four medical staff were killed and a nurse critically wounded in an air strike on a village near Syria's second city Aleppo late Tuesday, their aid group said. Sources said the strike hit two ambulances in Khan Tuman, a village south of Aleppo city, as workers evacuated victims from a previous strike.



US bill seeks to declare Pakistan a terror state

TNN, Washington
Two American lawmakers on Tuesday introduced legislation in the US Congress aimed at designating Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism in a humiliating setback to Islamabad ahead of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's speech before the UN General Assembly. The bill, HR 6069 or the Pakistan State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act, enjoins the US administration to make a formal call on the matter within four months of its passage. The President will have to issue a report within 90 days detailing whether or not Pakistan has provided support for international terrorism. Thirty days after that, the Secretary of State will have to issue a follow-up report containing either a determination that Pakistan is state sponsor of terrorism or a detailed justification as to why Pakistan does not meet the

legal criteria for designation. The bill was moved by Congressman Ted Poe from Texas, who is the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California, who is a strong votary of the Baloch cause. Both are Republicans. "Not only is Pakistan an untrustworthy ally, Islamabad has also aided and abetted enemies of the United States for years. From harboring Osama bin Laden to its cozy relationship with the Haqqani network, there is more than enough evidence to determine whose side Pakistan is on in the War on Terror. And it's not America's," Poe said in a statement announcing the bill. Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has refused to limit country's atomic programme after US secretary of state John Kerry urged him to so.



A demonstrator hits a poster of Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during a protest organised by India's main opposition Congress party against Sunday's attack at an Indian army base camp in Kashmir's Uri in Jammu, India, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Duterte gives middle finger to EU

AFP, Manila
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has launched a profanity-filled tirade against the European Union, in his latest riposte to international criticism of the rising death toll in his brutal crackdown on crime. Duterte punctuated his insults with a rude sign -- raising his middle finger -- after the European Parliament condemned "the current wave of extrajudicial executions and killings in the Philippines". "I say to them, fuck you. You're doing it in atonement for your sins," he told local officials in his southern home city of Davao late Tuesday in comments filmed by broadcaster ABS-CBN. "They're taking the high ground to assuage their feelings of guilt. But who did I kill? Assuming it to be true, 1,700, who are they? Criminals. You call that genocide," he said. "Now the EU has the gall to condemn me. So I repeat it. Fuck you," he said, raising his middle finger. In a separate speech on Tuesday, Duterte also repeated a vow to shield police or soldiers from prosecution. The 71-year-old leader had reacted along similar lines to earlier foreign criticism of his drug war, calling US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore" and cursing the United Nations. Duterte won elections in a landslide in May after vowing to eradicate the illegal drug trade in six months, and promising that 100,000 criminals would be killed in the process. Since he took office on June 30 about 3,000 people have been killed, about a third of them suspects shot dead by police and the rest murdered by unidentified attackers, according to police statistics.

UN DECLARATION ON 'BIGGEST GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT' World unites to tackle resistance to antibiotics

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
World leaders are poised to sign a "landmark" UN declaration and commit more than £600 million to fighting what has been termed "our biggest global health threat" - antibiotics. The rise of so-called "superbugs" that are resistant to antibiotic treatments, and the threat they pose to modern medicine, will be recognised in a pledge signed by officials from 193 countries at the UN General Assembly in New York. It follows a UK-led drive to raise awareness of the potential impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which England's chief medical officer described as "the greatest future threat to our civilisation". Professor Dame Sally Davies, England's chief medical officer, said: "This declaration is the culmination of six years of hard work and I am extremely

proud that every UN member state is now engaged in the enormous task of tackling the greatest future threat to our civilisation." Every signatory of the UN declaration will agree to develop surveillance and regulatory systems on the use and sales of antimicrobial medicines for humans and animals. They will encourage innovative ways to develop new antibiotics and educate health professionals and raise public awareness on how to prevent drug-resistant infections. The special meeting on Wednesday will be only the fourth time in its 70-year history that the UN has met specifically to discuss a health issue. Around 700,000 people around the world die annually due to drug-resistant infections such as TB, HIV and malaria. If no action is taken, it has been estimated that drug-resistant infections will kill 10 million people a year by 2050.

Trump slams 'Trojan horse' migrants

AFP, New York
Donald Trump's hardline stance on immigration after two bombings in the New York area again sparked debate on the White House campaign trail Tuesday, as his son caused a firestorm by comparing Syrian refugees to lethal candies. The Republican presidential hopeful's uncompromising position on undocumented migrants -- even calling them a dangerous "Trojan horse" who enter the country with the aim of doing harm -- is inextricably linked to his meteoric political rise. Most Republicans approve of his tough talk, with polls showing that a majority of party members agreed with his call last December to bar Muslims from entering the United States.

'I do not want to die' Yemeni girl, in a video message, pleads leaders at UN

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
"I don't want it to be my turn to die," Yara, a little girl with green ribbon in her hair says to the camera on her mother's phone. "I want to grow up and be something important in this world." The message is one that Yara, who is 10 and lives in Yemen's capital Sana, would like the world leaders currently meeting to discuss the global refugee crisis at the United Nations General Assembly in New York to take on board. Yara lives in the Yemeni capital Sana, which is currently held by Houthi rebels, and remembers very clearly when her world turned upside down. She was excited about a concert at school the next day - but instead, at about midnight one night in March 2015, Saudi-led coalition airstrikes on the city began. In a message recorded at home that she asked her parents to post to social media, where it has been viewed thousands of times on various platforms in the past three

weeks, she pleads in English for the US and international community to intervene to bring the war to an end. Yara is also very clear that she blames Saudi Arabia for her current situation, rather than the rebels, who are accused of forcibly taking over the capital and giving the government no choice but to capitulate. "I want America to stop helping [the Saudis] so the war can end," she added in an interview with PRI on Skype. "If [the US] can't stop the war against Yemen, I'd like them to stop helping Saudis and stop selling them weapons, so the war can stop." In the beginning, she cried and asked her parents if they could leave. But Yara says she knows now there is little chance her family will be able to flee, since airspace is closed, and Saudi Arabia controls both sea and land border checkpoints. The civil war in Yemen has killed more than 10,000 people, left up to 80 per cent of the population in need of humanitarian aid, the UN says.

