

NEWS IN brief

Gun attack, blast kill 12 in Tikrit

AFP, Samarra
Militants yesterday killed 12 people in a shooting and a suicide bombing in the northern city of Tikrit, which was recaptured from the Islamic State group last year, police said. The attacks also wounded a total of 23 people, according to the officers. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.

Brazil SC okays Temer probe

AFP, Rio De Janeiro
A Brazilian Supreme Court judge has authorized opening preliminary investigations into allegations that President Michel Temer sought illicit campaign donations in 2012. The allegations were made under a plea deal by Sergio Machado, the former president of Transpetro, a subsidiary state oil giant Petrobras, which is embroiled in a massive bribe and kickback scandal.

North Korea defends nuke power at UN

AFP, United Nations
North Korea's foreign minister on Friday told the United Nations that "going nuclear" is his country's only way to defend itself and vowed to further bolster its nuclear military forces. Ri Yong-ho spoke just two weeks after North Korea's fifth and most powerful nuclear test provoked worldwide condemnation, prompting the UN Security Council to begin work on a new sanctions resolution.

NYT endorses Clinton

AFP, Washington
The New York Times endorsed Hillary Clinton for president yesterday, saying her intelligence, record of public service and other strengths qualify her for the White House. In an editorial, the influential Times as expected threw its weight behind Clinton and dismissed Donald Trump as "the worst nominee put forward by a major party in modern American history."



People inspect a damaged site after airstrikes on the rebel held Tariq al-Bab neighbourhood of Aleppo, on Friday. Inset, Syrians await treatment at a make-shift hospital in Aleppo yesterday following more air strikes. At least 45 people were killed in yesterday's raids. Story on page 16. PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

FARC ratifies Colombia peace deal

AFP, El Diamante
The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia declared the end of its 52-year war Friday as it ratified a historic peace deal with the government. To a burst of applause and cheers, the FARC's chief negotiator announced the guerrillas had unanimously backed the agreement at a national conference. "The war is over," said Ivan Marquez, flanked by top FARC commanders, all dressed in civilian clothes and sitting at an impromptu conference table draped with Colombia's yellow, blue and red flag. If all goes according to plan, it will be the FARC's last meeting as a guerrilla army. Under the deal, the group is now to relaunch as a political party. President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader Rodrigo Londono will now sign the accord tomorrow in the Caribbean coast city of Cartagena. Colombians will then vote on it in a referendum on October 2. Recent polls show the "Yes" camp ahead.

TERROR ATTACK ON KASHMIR MILITARY BASE

India won't forget Uri attack

Warns Modi, vows to isolate Pakistan in world stage, meets defence top brass to discuss 'response'

AGENCIES
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday launched a blistering attack on Pakistan in his first public address after the Uri terror attack. He was speaking at a Bharatiya Janata Party rally in Kozhikode, where he'd attended the party's National Council meet. Modi said Pakistan - which is widely seen as being the source of the deadly attack which claimed the lives of 18 jawans last week - "wanted bloodshed, killing of people and terror."



Pakistan, ask your leaders that both the nations became independent at the same time, but why is it that India exports software while Pak exports terrorism?

In his speech, the PM also addressed the Pakistani people directly - saying that while both India and Pakistan attained Independence at the same time, India exported software, but Pakistan exported terror. After saying the whole nation was "very proud" of the Indian armed forces, the PM issued a grim warning to the masterminds of the attack, and others who may be planning more attacks: "The sacrifice of our 18 jawans will not go in vain. We will leave no

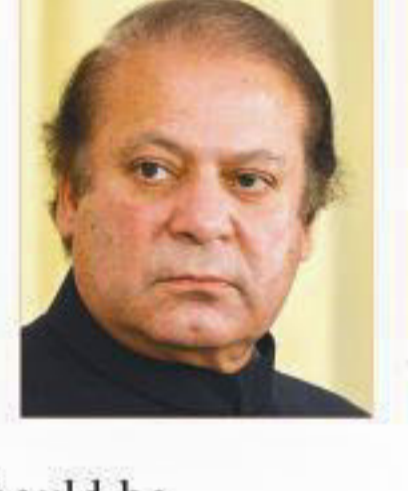
stone unturned to isolate Pakistan in the world," he said. He said Indian army has foiled 17 infiltration bids from Pakistan in the last few months and killed more than 110 terrorists. He then issued his stirring challenge to Pakistanis, asking them if they could find solutions to development issues faster than India could. "I want to tell the people of Pakistan, India is ready to fight you. If you have the strength, come forward to fight against poverty.

Lets see who wins. Let's see who is able to defeat poverty and illiteracy first, Pakistan or India," he said. And he told Pakistan to look in its own backyard before coveting the territory of others. "Pakistan is aiming for the land they have already captured ie PoK, Gilgit and Balochistan. Ask them (to Pak people): you can't handle Gilgit, PoK, Balochistan which is with you, then why mislead people by talking about Kashmir?" And he made this remarkable claim: "A day will come when the people of Pakistan will go against their own government to fight terrorism," adding that India would never bow down before terrorism. Earlier yesterday, the PM met with the Indian Army, Air Force Chiefs of Staff and Naval Vice Admiral to discuss the prevailing security conditions and response to the attack. Immediately after the Uri attack, Modi had vowed in a strongly worded tweet that he will not let the perpetrators go "unpunished".

China to support Pakistan against 'foreign aggression'

Says report; Pak PM relates Uri attack to Kashmir

AGENCIES
China has assured Pakistan of its support in the event of any foreign "aggression" and also supported the country's stance on the Kashmir dispute, a media report has claimed. Beijing conveyed the message during a meeting of its top diplomat in the provincial capital with Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, the Dawn reported.



"In case of any (foreign) aggression our country will extend its full support to Pakistan," Consul General of China in Lahore Yu Boren said in a press release by the Punjab Chief Minister's Office. "We are and will be siding with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. There is no justification for atrocities on unarmed Kashmiris in (India)-held Kashmir and the Kashmir dispute should be solved in accordance with aspirations of the Kashmiris," the report quoted Yu as saying. Diplomatic tension between India and Pakistan have been rising after the September 18 terror attack on an Army base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 18 Indian soldiers. Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said the Uri terror attack

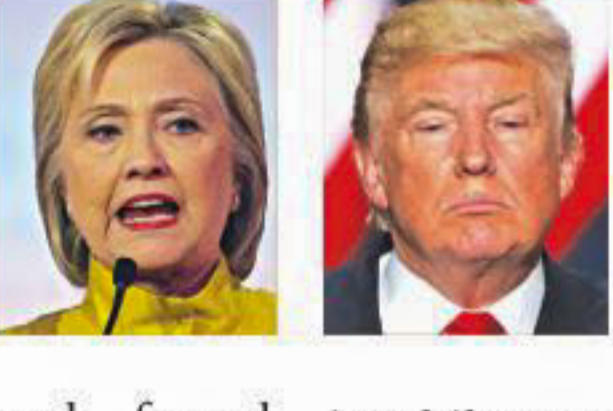
could a "reaction" to the situation in Kashmir and criticised India for blaming Pakistan "without any evidence." "The Uri attack can be the reaction of the atrocities in Kashmir, as the close relatives and near and dear ones of those killed and blinded over the last two months were hurt and outraged," Sharif told reporters in London. The PM said India had hastily blamed Pakistan without any investigation. "How could India accuse Pakistan only hours after the Uri incident without holding any inquiry or investigation," Sharif was quoted as saying by Pakistani media reports. As the tensions soaring between the two rivals, a petition was filed yesterday in the Lahore High Court seeking a ban on the exhibition of Indian movies in the country till resolution of the Kashmir issue. The petition, filed by a lawyer, alleged that Indian forces are committing atrocities in Kashmir and the Pakistan government has allowed Indian movies to be exhibited in local cinemas and this act is not only hurting the sentiments of Kashmiris but also the Pakistanis. The court will fix the date of hearing next week.

Clinton leads Trump by 6 points ahead of debate

Poll says Americans see GOP candidate more 'honest'

CNN ONLINE
Hillary Clinton holds a solid 6-point lead over Donald Trump heading into the first presidential debate tomorrow, according to a new national poll released Friday. The McClatchy-Marist poll found Clinton leading Trump 45% to 39% among likely voters in a four-way race. Libertarian Gary Johnson garnered 10% support, and Green Party candidate Jill Stein polled at 4%. A Wall Street Journal/NBC poll this week found Clinton leading by a similar margin, 43% to 37%. Clinton maintains a massive lead among black voters in the new poll, pacing Trump 93% to 3% despite high-profile

efforts by the Trump campaign to improve its outreach to minority voters. Clinton also has a large advantage over Trump among Latinos, 74% to 16%, but her support shrinks to 60% when third-party options are included. Both candidates continue to struggle with low favorability numbers -- 40% of likely voters say they have a favorable opinion of Clinton, and 37% say the same about Trump. Trump has a slight edge on the question of who is "honest and trustworthy," as 44% of likely voters think he is, while 36% think that Clinton is. The two run about even when voters pick who "shares their values" and who "cares about people like them." And Clinton beats Trump handily on "know how to do the job" and temperament.



British opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn (C) waves following his speech after being announced as the winner of the party's leadership contest at the Labour Party Leadership Conference in Liverpool, yesterday. Corbyn called for unity after ending a "coup" by more centrist lawmakers who say his left-wing agenda can never deliver victory at the polls. PHOTO: AFP

Obama vetoes bill allowing 9/11 victims to sue Saudi

AFP, Washington
President Barack Obama on Friday vetoed a bill allowing 9/11 families to sue Saudi Arabia, risking a fierce public backlash and rare congressional rebuke. While expressing "deep sympathy" for the families of the victims, Obama said the law would be "detrimental to US national interests." Terry Strada, whose husband Tom was killed in World Trade Center Tower One, told AFP the 9/11 "families are outraged and very disappointed" by Obama's decision. She vowed that the group would now lobby "just as hard as we possibly can" to have Congress overturn the decision. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump described the decision as "shameful." Obama now faces the very real prospect of Republican and Democratic lawmakers joining forces to override his veto for the first time in his presidency. Such a rebuke -- which Congressional sources say could come as early as next Tuesday -- would mark Obama's last months in office and show the White House to be much weakened. Families of 9/11 victims have campaigned for the law -- convinced that the Saudi government had a hand in the attacks that killed almost 3,000 people. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens, but no link to the government has been proven. The Saudi government denies any links to the plotters.

'Humanity must not respond to aliens'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
If we actually end up discovering aliens then they'll probably just wipe us all out, Stephen Hawking has said. Stephen Hawking made the warning in a film posted online, Stephen Hawking's Favorite Places. It showed him taking a spacecraft across the cosmos, visiting different locations across the universe. One of those places is Gliese 832c, a planet 16 light years away that some have speculated could contain life. "As I grow older I am more convinced than ever that we are not alone," he says in the video. "One day we might receive a signal from a planet like Gliese 832c, but we should be wary of answering back." It's far from the first time that Hawking has warned about the risk of chatting to aliens. When he helped launch the Breakthrough Listen project last year, he warned that any alien that we did actually hear probably wouldn't be interested in killing us -- precisely because it would have barely any interest in us at all. Any civilisation that could actually read a message we sent out would need to be billions of years ahead of us, he said. "If so they will be vastly more powerful and may not see us as any more valuable than we see bacteria."

'A clear-eyed view of history can make us uncomfortable'

Obama opens new African American Museum

AFP, Washington
President Barack Obama heralded Saturday the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, an institution dedicated to the many threads of black history and achievement. The first black president of the United States cut the ribbon to inaugurate the striking 400,000-square-foot (37,000-square-meter) bronze-clad edifice before thousands of spectators who had gathered in the nation's capital to witness the historic opening. "Beyond the majesty of the building, what makes this occasion so special is the larger story it contains," said Obama. "African-American history is not somehow separate from our larger American story. It's not the underside of the American story," he said. "It is central to the American story."

The Smithsonian's 19th and latest addition to its sprawling museum and research complex is the first national museum tasked with documenting the uncomfortable truths of the country's systematic oppression of black people, while also honoring the integral role of African-American culture. "A clear-eyed view of history can make us uncomfortable," Obama said. "It will shake us out of familiar narratives." "But it is precisely of that discomfort that we learn and grow and harness our collective power to make this nation more perfect. That's the American story that this museum tells." The museum -- which was first conceived of a century ago -- opens amid ever-heightening racial tensions, as national outrage grows over the spate of deaths of black men at the hands of police.



EU drops Myanmar rights resolution

REUTERS, United Nations
The European Union praised Myanmar's progress on human rights under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday and said that it would not be introducing a resolution at the United Nations condemning the country's record for the first time in 15 years. Addressing the Partnership Group on Myanmar at the United Nations General Assembly, EU Foreign Policy chief Federica Mogherini called Suu Kyi's progress from political prisoner to government "powerful testimony to the incredible change Myanmar is going through." "The government has taken bold measures to improve human rights and re-ignite the peace process. Political prisoners have been released," she said. Mogherini said steps had also "been taken against those who incite hatred" and a commission established under former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to address violence between majority Buddhists and Muslim Rohingyas in Myanmar's state of Rakhine. In recognition of the progress, for the first time in fifteen years, the European Union would not table a human rights resolution on Myanmar at the UN assembly, she said.