

### WHITE HOUSE RACE

#### KEY EVENTS

**DECEMBER 16, 2016:** Another Bush-Clinton matchup: political commentators and junkies drool with glee as Jeb Bush, son and brother of former presidents, jumps into the race for the White House.

**MARCH 2, 2015:** The New York Times scores a big scoop with news that Clinton used a private email server while working as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

**APRIL 12, 2015:** Clinton formally announces her candidacy. A bevy of Republicans start coming forward to join the race, including Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Ben Carson. The number would eventually swell to 17 including Trump.

**JUNE 16, 2015:** In a grandiose appearance at Trump Tower, Trump shows he is not bluffing and announces his candidacy. Calls Mexicans rapists, criminals.

**DECEMBER 7, 2015:** Trump calls for a total ban on Muslims entering the United States.

**FEBRUARY 20, 2016:** Bush drops out of the race after a poor showing.

**MAY 3-4, 2016:** Trump's last surviving rivals, Cruz and John Kasich, throw in the towel and Trump emerges victorious.

**JUNE 7, 2016:** Clinton manages to clinch enough primary delegates for the Democratic nomination, defeating Bernie Sanders.

**JULY 5, 2016:** FBI recommends that no charges be filed against Clinton over her private email server.

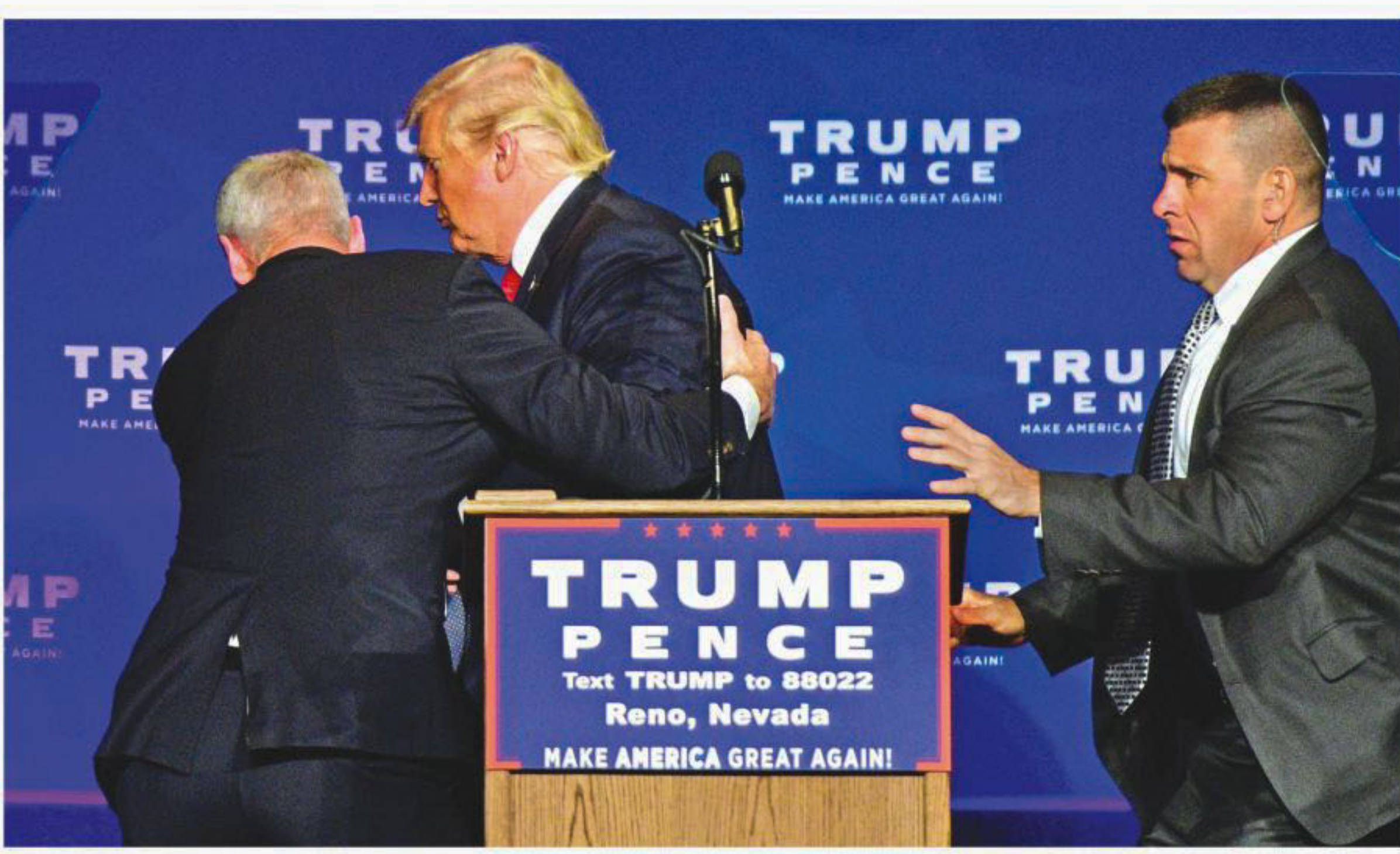
**LATE JULY, 2016:** Trump accepts the Republican nomination at a convention in Cleveland, while the Democratic convention in Philadelphia chooses Clinton as the first woman presidential nominee of a major party.

**AUGUST, 2016:** Trump has a very bad month: he again reshuffles his campaign staff, and is excoriated for criticising the parents of a Muslim US soldier killed in Iraq.

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2016:** The first presidential debate draws 84 million TV viewers. Trump loses his temper with Clinton. She boosts her lead in the polls.

**OCTOBER 7, 2016:** A damning audio from 2005 resurfaces in which Trump boasts he can do anything to women because of his stardom. Dozens of Republicans withdraw their support.

**OCTOBER 28, 2016:** In a gift to Trump, the FBI director announces a probe into previously undisclosed emails that he says might be pertinent to the probe into Clinton's server.



US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is hustled off the stage by security agents after a perceived threat in the crowd, at a campaign rally in Reno, Nevada, US, on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'I've serious concerns'

### GOP supporter fumes at Trump rally

REUTERS, Reno, Nevada

Republican Donald Trump was rushed off stage by security agents at a rally in Reno, Nevada, on Saturday night after a false alarm as someone in the crowd shouted "gun" during scuffles with a man who held up a 'Republicans against Trump' sign.

Two security agents seized Trump by the shoulders and hustled him backstage as police officers swarmed over a man in the front of the crowd and held him down and searched him before escorting him away with his hands behind his back.

Trump, seemingly unruffled, returned to the stage and continued his speech after a short time, saying "Nobody said it was going to be easy for us" and adding "We will never be stopped."

After being released, the man, Austyn Crites, who was apprehended told CBS News Reno affiliate KTVN-2 that he was a Republican supporter who attended the rally to express his opposition to Trump.

Crites said he wanted to contrast President Barack Obama's reaction to a protester during a rally a few days ago, in which he urged the crowd to respect the protester, with Trump's, saying he wanted "people to understand" the difference. "I have nothing against Trump supporters," Crites told the station. "We are all registered Republicans and support many of the same candidates for local offices. I have serious concern against Trump," he added.

### MAKE-OR-BREAK SWING STATES

The US presidential election could hinge on about a dozen so-called swing states where the contest between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump is particularly tight. The victor must get to the magic number of 270 Electoral College votes -- but just trying to anticipate the result is a complicated exercise in adding, subtracting and combining. A total of 538 electoral votes are in play, corresponding to the total number of elected representatives in Congress (435 members of the House and 100 senators) plus three for the US capital Washington, DC. Those who win a state's popular vote are apportioned the state's electors, the number of which is roughly in line to the size of its population. Here's a list of the major swing states, the number of electoral votes and the averages of recent polls and who won the state in the last two elections:

<b>FLORIDA</b> 29 ELECTORAL VOTES 47.4% 46.2% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> 20 ELECTORAL VOTES 46.8% 43.8% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>OHIO</b> 18 ELECTORAL VOTES 46.3% 43% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> 15 ELECTORAL VOTES 46.8% 46% 2008: Obama (D) 2012: Romney (R)	<b>VIRGINIA</b> 13 ELECTORAL VOTES 46.6% 41.4% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>ARIZONA</b> 11 ELECTORAL VOTES 46.3% 42.3% 2008: McCain (R) 2012: Romney (R)	<b>COLORADO</b> 9 ELECTORAL VOTES 42.8% 40.2% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>IOWA</b> 6 ELECTORAL VOTES 41.7% 40.3% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>NEVADA</b> 6 ELECTORAL VOTES 46% 44% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> 4 ELECTORAL VOTES 43.5% 42% Barack Obama won in last two polls (D)
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## KEY BATTLEGROUND: EARLY VOTING

# Democrats take lead in Florida

CNN ONLINE

With two days before Election Day, Democratic turnout has edged ahead of Republicans for the first time since early voting began in the critical battleground state of Florida.

The milestone is a boon to Hillary Clinton's chances of carrying the Sunshine State and its 29 electoral votes -- a prize so large that it would help her close off most of Donald Trump's paths to victory.

But it's not all good news for Democrats: Their current lead is significantly smaller than the turnout advantage they had over registered Republicans at this point in 2008.

More than 5.7 million Floridians have already hit the polls after about two weeks of in-person early voting. So far, 2,268,663 Democrats have cast their ballots and 2,261,383 Republicans have already voted.

These are not results -- ballots aren't tallied until Election Day. But the numbers provide clues on who is voting and which party is turning out to vote.

Democrats slowly chipped away at the Republican advantage, largely thanks to strong turnout from Hispanic voters.

Doing well in the early vote is absolutely critical in Florida, because a majority of voters cast early ballots in the past two presidential elections. This means the candidate behind in the early vote must make up ground on Election Day to stand a chance at winning Florida's electoral votes.

## Latino voting surge rattles GOP

POLITICO ONLINE

Hispanic voters could be poised to deliver a historic rebuke to Donald Trump and the Republican Party.

Early-vote statistics from battleground states with large Hispanic populations show record turnout among a bloc that has voted at a lower rate than whites or blacks in past elections. If, as some polls suggest, Hispanic voters are supporting Hillary Clinton by blowout margins, these numbers could sink Trump in a handful of states that are essential to his path to 270 electoral votes.

In Nevada, Latino turnout propelled Democrats in Clark County -- the population center that's home to Las Vegas -- to a record-breaking close on Friday, driving up the Democratic lead in early ballots cast to 72,000. That's enough, according to veteran Nevada political analyst Jon Ralston, to essentially tie a bow on the state for Clinton.

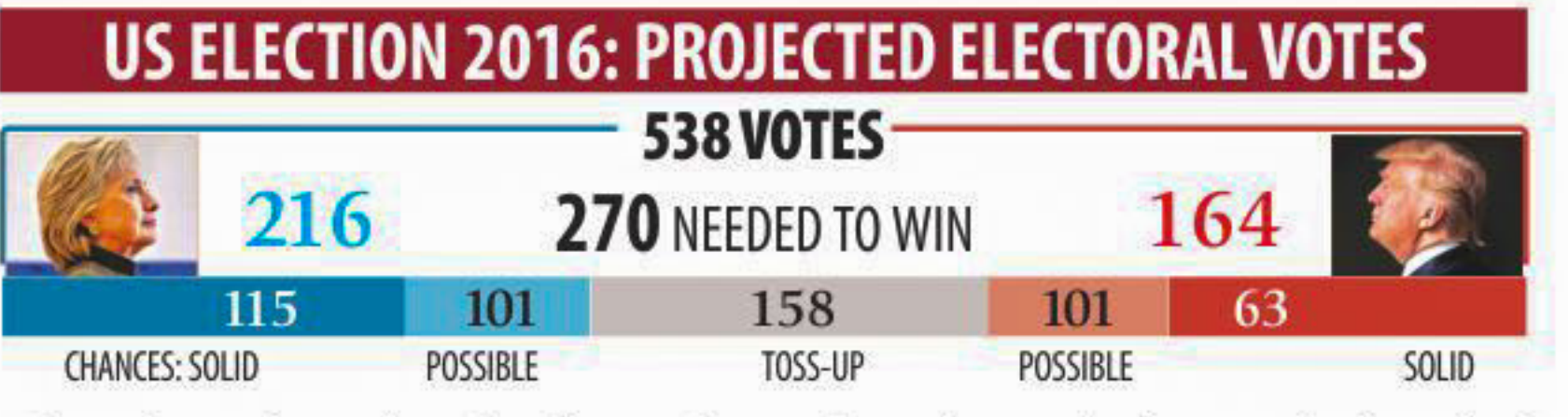
Four years earlier, when Obama won the state by seven points, Democrats led Clark County in ballots cast by 71,000 at the end of early voting in 2012.

In Florida, which tracks turnout by race and ethnicity, Hispanics have so far cast about 14 percent of the 5.7 million early and absentee ballots cast. That puts Hispanics far ahead of where they were in casting early ballots relative to 2012.

That follows Florida Democratic strategist Steve Schale's analysis, which notes that through Wednesday alone, Hispanic turnout in 2016 had already exceeded -- by 170,000 ballots -- Latino turnout has historically lagged most other races and ethnicities -- even among those eligible to cast ballots. In 2012, 62 percent of all US citizens voted in the presidential election -- but only 48 percent of Hispanic citizens. Meanwhile, higher percentages of white citizens (62 percent) and 66 percent of black citizens participated.

These turnout rates are why the Hispanic vote is frequently described as a "sleeping giant" -- a giant that Clinton's campaign and the Democrats are trying to awaken by highlighting Trump's immigration policies and inflammatory statements about Mexicans in the hopes of driving higher turnout than in past election years.

Hispanics are expected to make up, at most, one-in-10 voters nationally.



## German president 'worried' about Trump victory

German President Joachim Gauck said he was worried about the prospect of Donald Trump winning the race for the White House, citing the US Republican hopeful's "unpredictability" as a cause for concern, according to a magazine interview published yesterday.

"We can't say what could be expected from a President Donald Trump," Gauck told Germany's Der Spiegel weekly. "To me, and to many people in the United States and here at home, this constitutes a problem."

"When I look at Washington, I am worried."

The German president, whose role is largely ceremonial, said he hoped "that American democracy, which does not allow the president to act as an autocrat, that the system of checks and balances, of mutual control" of power would be maintained.

SOURCE: AFP

## Clinton has 'more than 99% chance' to win: survey

A survey from the Princeton Election Consortium has found that Hillary Clinton has a 99 per cent chance of winning the election over Donald Trump.

Three days before the election, Clinton has a projected 312 electoral votes, compared to 226 for Trump. A total of 270 electoral votes are needed to win.

The probability statistic was found by the university's statistical Bayesian model. The developer of the model, neuro and data scientist Princeton professor Sam Wang, correctly predicted 49 out of 50 states in 2012.

Other polls were less bullish on a Clinton victory. FiveThirtyEight said the likelihood Clinton would win was 65 per cent, while the New York Times upshot said there was a 85 per cent chance.

FiveThirtyEight founder Nate Silver wrote on Friday that Clinton had been on a downward trajectory this week, but in the last few days the polls have become "more equivocal".

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

## IS calls for 'slaughter' on Election Day

The Islamic State terror group has called for "slaughter" of American voters on Election Day and urged Muslims not to participate in the democratic process, according to a US-based terrorist monitoring group.

Ritz Katz, director of the SITE Intelligence Group, said on Twitter that the threats appear in an essay carried by the Islamic State's Al Hayat media center that declares militants "have come to slaughter you and smash your ballot boxes." The warning is carried in a seven-page manifesto, entitled 'The Murtadd Vote', The USA TODAY reported.

The essay also declares there is no difference between the Republican and Democratic parties in their "policies against Islam and Muslims".

Regarding possible vote-related threats, federal authorities are reviewing information about al-Qaida's potential interest in conducting attacks in the US on the eve of Tuesday's elections, several federal and state law enforcement officials had said on Friday.

SOURCE: PTI

## IS bombings kill 25 people in Iraq

AFP, Kirkuk

Suicide bombings claimed by the Islamic State group killed at least 25 people and wounded more than 50 in two cities north of Baghdad yesterday, officials said.

One bomber detonated an explosives-rigged vehicle at the southern entrance to Tikrit, while another other blew up an ambulance at a car park in Samarra, possibly in concert with a third bomber.

The Tikrit attack killed at least 15 people and wounded at least 33, while at least 10 died and at least 25 were wounded in Samarra, security and medical officials said.

Iranian pilgrims were among the victims in Samarra, which is home to a major Shia shrine that was bombed in 2006, setting off a wave of brutal sectarian violence.

IS issued a statement claiming yesterday's attacks, but said there were three suicide bombers: two who struck Samarra and the third who attacked Tikrit.

A police lieutenant colonel also said there was a second bomber who attacked the car park in Samarra, but other sources only mentioned one in the city.

Iraqi forces are fighting to retake Mosul in a massive operation that was launched on October 17.

## May vows to deliver Brexit

REUTERS, London

British Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday she would deliver a full exit from the European Union, hitting back at critics of her Brexit strategy who have threatened to try to block the process in parliament.

The government's plans to launch a two-year divorce process by the end of March next year were thrown into disarray last week when a court ruled that parliament must be consulted on the decision. May has said she is confident of overturning the ruling.

Nevertheless, the prospect of a parliamentary vote has enraged eurosceptic lawmakers who fear the 'hard Brexit' they want will be watered down, and emboldened political opponents who want a less radical split from the bloc.

Writing in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper, May signalled she would resist any attempt to force her to change her approach to leaving the EU, a historic break that was approved by full," May wrote.

She said members of parliament who regretted the referendum result "need to accept what the people decided".

The head of Britain's opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said in a newspaper interview that he would try to block the commencement of divorce talks with the EU if the government does not agree to his Brexit demands.

May's government has said that having to set out a detailed negotiating strategy to parliament would put it at a disadvantage in the talks.

"While others seek to tie our negotiating hands, the Government will get on with the job of delivering the decision of the British people," May said in a separate statement ahead of a trade visit to India yesterday.



52 percent of Britons in a referendum in June. "The people made their choice, and did so decisively. It is the responsibility of the government to get on with the job and to carry out their instruction in

## Pak shelling kills 2 Indian soldiers

AFP, Srinagar

The Indian army said Pakistani shelling killed two of its soldiers at posts along the border of Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday, and five others including three civilians were injured.

It said it retaliated by destroying several Pakistani posts.

Artillery tit-for-tat exchanges and skirmishes between the two have intensified along the frontier running through the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir over the last few months.

The dispute over Kashmir has sparked two of the three wars between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan since partition and independence from Britain in 1947.

"We are giving a fitting response. (We) will hit them where it hurts the most," said Indian defence spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Manish Mehta.

"It is very unprofessional act of the Pakistan army to target our residential areas."

On Thursday, Pakistan named eight Indian diplomats it accuses of espionage and terrorism. New Delhi dismissed the allegations as "baseless and unsubstantiated".

## Smog shuts Delhi schools

AFP, New Delhi

Schools in the Indian capital will be closed for the next three days, the Delhi state government said Sunday, as the city struggles with one of the worst spells of air pollution in recent years.

"Emergency measures are needed to solve this problem together," state chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

"All construction and demolition in the city will be banned for next five days. All schools will be closed for the next three days in Delhi," he added.

Thick smog has blanketed the capital for days, with local and central authorities meeting to resolve the crisis.

Kejriwal who chaired an emergency meeting of the state cabinet, advised people to stay indoors as much as possible and work from home if they could.

The chief minister, who on Saturday compared the state to a "gas chamber," has blamed crop-burning by farmers in neighbouring states for the smog.

Most of Delhi's neighbouring states are largely dependent on agriculture, with farmers resorting to crop-stubble burning before each sowing season.

The chief minister warned restrictions that took around a million cars off the roads for 15 days in a bid to improve air quality earlier this year could again be implemented. The 'odd-even' plan restricts cars to alternate days according to their number plates.

The reading for pollutants in the atmosphere recently breached the 1,000 microgram mark for the first time in one neighbourhood in south Delhi -- 10 times the World Health Organisation's recommended level.



Displaced Iraqi people who fled fighting in south of Mosul, head to safer territory, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## UKPM arrives in India for key visit

AFP, New Delhi

Britain's prime minister arrived in India late yesterday on her first bilateral visit outside the European Union since taking office, as she looks for a post-Brexit trade deal with the world's fastest-growing major economy. The two sides are expected to discuss key issues including closer economic and defence sector ties, terrorism, visa regimes and technology.

## Fresh Yemen fighting kills 20: officials

AFP, Aden

Fresh clashes in two different parts of Yemen killed 14 pro-Iran rebels and six fighters loyal to the internationally recognised government, military officials said yesterday. Nearly 7,000 people have been killed in Yemen war.

## Pakistan won't deport Afghan 'Nat Geo girl'

TNN, New Delhi

After requests for clemency from the man whose photograph made her famous and after former cricketer Imran Khan's similar request, the famous National Geographic 'Afghan Girl' Sharbat Gula won't be deported from Pakistan, despite a court in Peshawar ordering it, a government official told Dawn. The decision to not deport Gula was taken on humanitarian grounds, said the official.