

US TRAVEL BAN 130 experts denounce Trump order

Over 130 US foreign policy experts have denounced President Donald Trump's revised travel ban, saying it undermines America's national security and interests as much as the original order barring travelers from some Muslim-majority countries and refugees.

"To Muslims -- including those victimized by or fighting against ISIS (Islamic State) -- it will send a message that reinforces the propaganda... that falsely claim the United States is at war with Islam," read the letter by former government officials and experts.

Among the 134 signatories were some who served in either or both Republican and Democratic administrations were former senior diplomat Nicholas Burns, ex-National Security Council counter-terrorism director Richard Clarke and ex-undersecretary of defense Michele Flournoy.



Riot police clash with demonstrators in the streets near the Turkish consulate in Rotterdam, Netherlands, yesterday. PHOTO: ReUTERS

A new India has emerged: Modi

Indian PM says in victory speech after key victories in state polls

In a victory speech yesterday evening, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the BJP's near-historic victory in state elections is a mandate by the poor for the opportunities the BJP has afforded them and will continue to offer them.



said, in tweets and elaborated upon in his speech, is one for "a new India". He today also unveiled #IAMNewIndia, a nation-building exercise on the NaMo App, which is "a pledge to build a new India".

Third of west Mosul retaken

Iraqi security forces have seized control of more than a third of west Mosul, a commander said yesterday, after a week of steady gains in their battle to retake the city from the Islamic State group.

that forces from the Rapid Response Division, another special forces unit, and the federal police were also attacking the Bab al-Toub area on the edge of Mosul's Old City.

spokesman for the JOC, told AFP. Still, he said, IS resistance "has begun to weaken in a big way".



irregular enemy who hides among the citizens and uses tactics of booby-trapping, explosions and suicide bombers, and the operation is taking place with precision to preserve the lives of the citizens," Brigadier General Yahya Rasool, the

Netherlands will 'pay price'

Warns Erdogan after Turkey ministers barred from campaign rallies there

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday warned the Netherlands it would pay a price for preventing top ministers from holding rallies ahead of a referendum on expanding his powers, as a crisis escalated with Turkey's key EU partners.

elections on Wednesday, you will pay a price," an angry Erdogan told a ceremony in Istanbul, referring to the March 15 election in Turkey's Nato ally.



A vehicle carrying South Korea's ousted leader Park Geun-hye drives past her supporters as she arrives at her private home in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. PHOTO: ReUTERS

NEWS IN brief

- Damascus blasts death toll jumps to 74**
Afp, Beirut
- Suicide bombing attacks foiled in Nigeria**
Afp, Lagos

US forces in Syria 'invaders': Assad

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad scoffed and questioned US actions in Syria, calling American troops deploying to the country "invaders" because he hadn't given permission for them to enter the country and saying there's been no "concrete action" from the Trump administration toward IS.

Landslide at Ethiopia waste dump kills 30

At least 30 people were killed and dozens more hurt in a giant landslide of garbage at Ethiopia's largest rubbish dump on the outskirts of the capital Addis Ababa, a city official said yesterday.

Top US prosecutor fired after refusing to quit on order

High-profile New York prosecutor Preet Bharara -- who was among the federal attorneys asked to resign by the White House -- said Saturday that he has been fired.

Impeached Park leaves presidential palace

South Korea's impeached ex-president Park Geun-Hye left the Blue House yesterday, issuing an apology for not completing her full term as she arrived back at her private residence.

Jordan releases Israeli schoolgirls killer

A Jordanian soldier who shot dead seven Israeli schoolgirls in 1997 was released from prison yesterday after serving out his life sentence, sparking outrage from the families of those killed.