

Speaker, MPs slam Dashti's visit to family of Mughniya



Indian serial child killer confesses to crimes



Germany eyes Iran business but Israel tops differences



Blatter departure date set as FIFA tries again with reforms



## NEW UAE LAW OUTLAWES ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

LEGISLATION SEEKS TO PROMOTE TOLERANCE, ACCEPTANCE



Min 32°  
Max 47°  
High Tide 03:38 & 14:36  
Low Tide 08:38 & 21:10

## CUBA FLAG FLIES IN US AS TIES RESTORED

**WASHINGTON:** The Cuban flag was yesterday proudly hoisted over Havana's newly restored embassy in Washington for the first time in 54 years as the two nations resumed diplomatic ties, ending decades of hostility. In a historic ceremony attended by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, a large crowd cheered and shouted "Fidel, Fidel" and "Viva Raul" as the flag was raised by an honor guard. They were referring to Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and his brother Raul Castro, who is now the president of the communist-run Caribbean island.



**WASHINGTON:** Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez (second right) applauds as the Cuban flag is raised in front of the country's embassy for the first time in 54 years yesterday. — AFP

After the US and Cuba officially resumed relations at one minute after midnight, an American official confirmed to AFP that US Secretary of State John Kerry will visit Havana on Aug 14. He will be the first US secretary of state to visit Cuba since 1945, sealing what will be a major foreign policy legacy of President Barack Obama's eight-year tenure. The historic turnaround between two bitter adversaries has come at breakneck pace after Obama and Raul Castro in December agreed to normalize ties.

The shift came after Washington acknowledged its policy of trying to affect change in tightly controlled communist Cuba through isolation and trade restrictions had failed. At about 4:00 am (0800 GMT), the Cuban banner first took its place in the columned marble entrance hall to the State Department, hoisted between the flags of Croatia to the left and Cyprus to the right. It was then raised at the embassy in Washington, which until yesterday had been operating as an interests section.

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**DUBAI:** The United Arab Emirates has outlawed religious or racial discrimination, the state news agency WAM said yesterday, citing a royal decree by President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. The law is aimed in part at countering Islamist militancy, particularly the practice known as takfir, whereby hard-line Muslims label followers of other schools of Islam unbelievers, but it also outlaws insults against religions. The legislation bars discrimination based on "religion, caste, creed, doctrine, race, color or ethnic origin," according to WAM.

"The new law No. 02 of 2015 criminalizes any acts that stoke religious hatred and/or which insult religion through any form of expression, be it speech or the written word, books, pamphlets or via online media," WAM reported. "The law is intended to provide a sound foundation for the environment of tolerance, broadmindedness and acceptance in the UAE," the report said. Penalties include six months to more than 10 years in prison and fines up to two million dirhams (\$545,000). Authorities held out the possibility of amnesty for those who proactively turn themselves in.

The UAE, an oil-exporting confederation of seven Muslim emirates ruled by hereditary dynasties and bordering Saudi Arabia and Oman, is worried about political Islam, which appeals to religious conservatives while challenging its lack of democratic rule. It has declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization - the Brotherhood denies any involvement in militant violence - and taken part in US-led air strikes on the ultra-radical Islamic State insurgent group in Syria. The UAE is also concerned about efforts by Sunni Muslim jihadists to stoke sectarian tensions in the Gulf with recent blasts at Shiite Muslim mosques in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Militant violence is rare in the UAE, but Islamic State has urged Muslims in Gulf countries to target Western expatriates in retaliation for attacks against it. While all UAE citizens are Muslims, most of them are Sunni. The country is also home to hundreds of thousands of non-Muslim expatriates and is a popular destination for foreign tourists. Human rights organizations criticize the country for clamping down on free speech and accuse it of using laws against terrorism to jail peaceful critics of the government. — Agencies



**SURUC, Turkey:** Bodies are seen on the ground after an explosion in this town not far from the Syrian border yesterday. — AFP

## SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 31 IN TURKEY ATTACK

**ANKARA:** A suicide bomber attacked yesterday a cultural centre hosting anti-Islamic State activists in a Turkish town near the border with Syria, killing 31 people in an "act of terror" blamed on the jihadist group. The blast ripped through the centre in Suruc, a town opposite the Syrian flashpoint of Kobane - which was itself later hit by a suicide car bombing. Most of the dead were university students who had been planning a mission to help Kobane residents, according to a pro-Kurdish party official.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on a visit to northern Cyprus, condemned the attack as an "act of terror". "On behalf of my people, I curse and condemn the perpetra-

tors of this brutality," he said. "Terror must be condemned no matter where it comes from." The force of the explosion blew out the windows of the building and set off a blaze, witnesses said. Television footage showed several people lying on the ground covered in blood and ambulances rushing to the scene.

"The Turkish authorities have strong reason to believe that the terrorist attack was perpetrated by ISIS," a government official told AFP, using another name for IS. If confirmed, it would be the first such attack by IS fighters against Turkey, a regional military power and NATO member.

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## UN ENDORSES IRAN NUKE DEAL

### MENTAL, DRUG ISSUES DOGGED US GUNMAN

**CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee:** A man who shot and killed five service members in Tennessee was first treated by a child psychiatrist for depression when he was 12 or 13 years old, a family representative said. The representative, who spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity to avoid unwanted publicity, said 24-year-old Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, a naturalized American citizen born in Kuwait, also fought drug and alcohol abuse, spending time in Jordan last year to help clean himself up.



**Muhammad Abdulazeez**

This year and the loss of a job over a failed drug test.

Several years ago, relatives tried to have Abdulazeez admitted to an in-patient program for drug and alcohol abuse but a health insurer refused to approve the expense, said the representative. "He was medicated like many children are. Through high school and college he did a better job sometimes than others staying with it," the representative said. Abdulazeez had spent several months in Jordan last year under a mutual agreement

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**UNITED NATIONS:** Thomas Mayr-Harting (left), head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, shakes hands with Iran's UN Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo at the UN headquarters yesterday. — AP

**UNITED NATIONS:** The UN Security Council yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the historic deal on Iran's nuclear program and cleared a path to lift sanctions crippling its economy. It marks formal UN approval for the hard-won, groundbreaking agreement reached between Tehran and the permanent members of the Security Council, plus Germany, after 18 straight days of talks that capped almost two years of momentous negotiations.

The passing of the resolution sets in motion a gradual process - conditional on Iran abiding by the deal - that can terminate seven UN resolutions imposing sanctions on Iran since 2006. The agreement with Tehran was reached last Tuesday in Vienna by the UN council's five permanent members -

Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, plus Germany.

US President Barack Obama welcomed the resolution and said he expected a hostile Congress to "pay attention" to the broad consensus behind the deal. Obama said he hoped resolution would "send a clear message that the overwhelming number of countries" recognize that diplomacy is "by far our strongest approach to ensuring that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon."

In the Security Council, ambassadors said the years of hard work on Iran should become a blueprint for how the world deals with other crises such as those in Syria and Yemen. "When our nations truly unite to confront global crises, our influence grows

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## AUSSIE SURF PRO FIGHTS OFF SHARK

**SYDNEY:** Australian surf champion Mick Fanning's shocked mother feared she had lost another son after he was attacked by a huge shark in South Africa, with the sport's top names also left shaken Monday by the terrifying close call. The 34-year-old was competing in the final heat of a world tour event at Jeffreys Bay in South Africa's Eastern Cape province on Sunday when a looming black fin appeared behind him. In a churn of water and spray, Fanning, a triple world champion, was knocked off his board as he battled to fend off the animal in images being shown live.

"It came up and got stuck in my leg rope," he said in a television interview after miraculously escaping unscathed. "I was kicking and screaming. I just saw a fin. I didn't see teeth. I was waiting for the teeth to come at me as I was swimming. I

punched it in the back. There's a small depression in my board and my leg wrap (was) bitten. I'm just totally tripping out. To walk away from that, I'm just so stoked. Oh man."

His terrified mother was watching the drama unfold on television in Australia, and feared the worst. "I was so scared. I just thought when that wave came through that he'd gone," mum Elizabeth Osborne told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, adding that she went over to the TV "almost as though I could pull him out ... to save him".

Fanning lost his brother in a car crash almost 17 years ago and his mother said it brought back the memories. "It's the worst thing I've ever seen happen to any of my family because it was just there in front of me," she said of the shark attack while

fighting back tears. "When Sean was killed in the car accident, I didn't see it. I saw this just in front of me. It was just terrible."

Fanning was pulled from the water by a nearby rescue jet-ski that rushed to his aid. The World Surf League (WSL), which organised the J-Bay Open, said two sharks were spotted in the water near Fanning and his rival - and close friend - Julian Wilson, also from Australia. Despite the danger posed by the shark, Wilson furiously paddled towards Fanning to help and was hailed in Australia yesterday for his courageous actions. His mother Nola, also watching on television, told reporters: "I don't know if he's crazy or a hero." The WSL cancelled the competition after discussions with both surfers.

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**JEFFREYS BAY, South Africa:** This screengrab shows Australian surfer Mick Fanning being attacked by a shark during the Final of the JBay surf open on Sunday. — AFP