

## ● UNITED STATES

## Murderers stage prison break-out

TWO convicted murderers have used power tools to cut through steel walls and escape from a maximum-security US prison near the Canadian border.

New York governor Andrew Cuomo said 48-year-old Richard Matt and 34-year-old David Sweat are “dangerous individuals” who escaped in an elaborate plot. Officials are trying to determine where they got the power tools.

Authorities said Matt and Sweat were discovered to be missing from the Dannemora prison this morning. Sweat is serving life over the murder of a Broome County sheriff's deputy in 2002. Matt is serving 25 years to life for killing a man in 1997.

## ● BIH

## Pope preaches peace to city

**THE Pope has urged Bosnia's Muslims, Orthodox Christians and Catholics to put the “barbarity” of war behind them as he made a one-day visit to Sarajevo.**

Francis received a joyous welcome from thousands of cheering Bosnians who lined his motorcade route and another 65,000 people packed the same Sarajevo stadium where St John Paul II presided over an emotional post-war Mass of reconciliation in 1997.

John Paul II's visit endeared him to a city that felt abandoned – sentiments that have been projected on to Francis.

## ● UNITED STATES

## Fitting send-off for attorney general

POLITICIANS and celebrities have paid farewell to former Delaware attorney general Beau Biden, son of vice president Joe Biden, who died a week ago at the age of 46 after a two-year battle with brain cancer.

President Barack Obama said in a eulogy delivered at Biden's funeral service: “He did in 46 years what most of us couldn't in 146. He left nothing in the tank.”

A crowd of more than 1,000 packed St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Coldplay singer Chris Martin performed Till Kingdom Come – the White House said Beau Biden had been a Coldplay fan and when Martin found out, he asked to attend the funeral.



From left, European Council President Donald Tusk, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Italian Premier Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, gather to pose for a group photo during the G-7 summit in Schloss Elmau hotel near

## ● INDIA

## Nestlé sued in noodle scare

**INDIA'S government has filed for damages from Nestlé after a scare involving reports of excess lead in Maggi noodles forced a nationwide recall.**

The company said it would temporarily withdraw Maggi noodles, though it reiterated the products were safe.

Maggi sales account for less than 1 per cent of Nestlé's annual sales, but brand damage could be big in a country where the noodles, costing 12 rupees (12p) a packet, have been dubbed the “third staple” after rice and lentils.



People walk near artist Anish Kapoor's Dirty Corner

## ● FRANCE

## Sculptor defends Versailles 'vagina'

BRITISH sculptor Anish Kapoor has defended an installation in the grounds of the Palace of Versailles that has come in for criticism from tourists, the French press and the town's mayor.

Turner Prize-winner Kapoor said the sculpture, called Dirty Corner, signified “the vagina of the queen taking power” – Versailles was the home of Marie Antoinette. But he added: “Inevitably, one comes across the body, our bodies and a certain level of sexuality. But it is certainly not the only thing it is about.”

In a tweet, Versailles mayor François de Mazières said the award-winning artist had “slipped up” with the artwork.

## ● UNITED STATES

## Amazon takes down IS digest

**COPIES of Islamic State's English-language propaganda magazine, Dabiq, have been removed from the Amazon website.**

Dabiq was described on Amazon as “a periodical magazine focusing on issues of tawhid (unity), manhaj (truth-seeking), hijrah (migration), jihad (holy war) and jama'ah (community)”.

In a statement to the BBC, Amazon said: “This product is no longer available for sale.”

The author was listed as al-Hayat Media Centre, which is an IS media arm.



# G7: Leaders stand firm on Russia sanctions

## Nations unite in taking a tough line towards Moscow

### ● GERMANY

BY ANGUS MCDOWALL  
IN KRÜN

LEADERS from the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations backed a tough line towards Moscow at the start of a summit in the Bavarian Alps, with US President Barack Obama urging the gathering to stand up to Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Russia has been excluded from what was previously known as the G8 since the annexation of Crimea last year.

Host Angela Merkel greeted Obama in the idyllic Alpine village of Krün under blue skies, surrounded by locals in traditional dress, drinking beer and eating local speciality white sausage and pretzels, with the President joking that he had forgotten his lederhosen but hoped to buy some.

The German chancellor was hoping to secure commitments from her G7 guests to tackle global warming ahead of a major United Nations climate summit in Paris in December. The German agenda also foresees discussions on global health issues, from Ebola to antibiotics and tropical diseases.

Obama said leaders would dis-

cuss the global economy, trade partnerships and “standing up to Russian aggression in Ukraine”, as well as threats from violent extremism and climate change.

Both he and Merkel highlighted the importance of the German-American relationship, damaged in recent years by revelations of US spying in Germany, including the bugging of the chancellor's mobile phone.

“My message to the German people is simple. We are grateful for your friendship, for your leadership,” said Obama, using the traditional Bavarian greeting “Grüss Gott” with a crowd gathered in the village square in Krün. “We stand together as inseparable allies in Europe and around the world.”

Despite using Obama's first name, and addressing him using the friendly “du” rather than the formal “Sie”, Merkel was slightly cooler in her welcome, alluding to the tensions between the two countries.

She said: “Although it's true we have differences of opinion from time to time, the United States of America is our friend and essential partner with whom we co-operate closely because it's in our mutual interest.”

British Prime Minister David Cameron and European Council

President Donald Tusk both said they hoped the G7 would present a united front on sanctions towards Russia.

EU leaders agreed in March that sanctions imposed over Russia's intervention in Ukraine would stay until the Minsk ceasefire agreement was fully implemented, effectively extending them to the end of the year, but a formal decision has yet to be taken.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is known to be sceptical about sanctions and left-wing politicians in Germany have also called for them to be removed.

“If anyone wants to start a discussion about changing the sanctions regime, it could only be about strengthening it,” said Tusk.

European monitors have blamed a recent upsurge in violence in eastern Ukraine on Russian-backed separatists.

Leaders and reporters were shuttled to the summit site by helicopter yesterday morning, as hundreds of protesters blocked the main road to Schloss Elmau.

On Saturday, thousands of anti-G7 protesters marched in the nearby town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. There were sporadic clashes with police and several marchers were taken to hospital

with injuries, but the violence was minor compared to some previous summits.

Germany deployed 17,000 police around the former Winter Olympic games venue at the foot of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze. Another 2,000 were on stand-by across the border in Austria.

In addition to climate and health issues, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Union were due to discuss Islamist militant threats from groups such as Islamic State and Boko Haram. The leaders of Nigeria, Tunisia and Iraq were to join them later as part of an “outreach” group for non-G7 countries.

Merkel was likely to have her work cut out for her on the climate talks. She won plaudits in 2007 when she hosted a G8 meeting on the Baltic coast and convinced Obama's predecessor George W. Bush to join other leaders in pledging to fight global warming.

This time, she and French President François Hollande, who will host the climate summit at the end of the year, for which he is keen to generate some momentum in Bavaria, were facing resistance from Japan and Canada.



US President Barack Obama, Matteo Renzi, European Garmisch-Partenkirchen

### ● TURKEY

## Ruling party on course to lose majority

BY TIM COOPER  
IN ISTANBUL

WITH two-thirds of the votes counted, Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party, the AKP, last night appeared to be on course to lose its parliamentary majority.

Early projections yesterday suggested the AKP had 43.6 per cent of the vote, according to Turkish television stations.

If confirmed, the result would end the AKP's 13-year single-party rule, and upset President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who had planned to rewrite the constitution in order to boost his office's powers.

Erdogan, who first came to power as prime minister in 2003,

was not on the ballot but the election is effectively a referendum on whether to endow his office with extraordinary powers that would significantly change Turkey's democracy and prolong his reign as the country's most powerful politician.

His ruling party is expected to win significantly more votes than any opposition party but it must win a super-majority of 550 seats to change the constitution.

Under the current constitution, Mr Erdogan is meant to stay above the political fray as president. But he has been campaigning vociferously, drawing complaints from the opposition that he is ignoring the constitution.

Early results also suggest the pro-Kurdish HDP is set to cross

the 10 per cent threshold, securing seats for the first time and extinguishing AKP's reform plans.

The vote comes amid high tensions following bombings on Friday during an HDP rally that killed two people and injured scores. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said a suspect has been detained in the case.

More than 53 million voters in Turkey and abroad are eligible to choose the deputies to the Grand National Assembly.

Aside from the constitutional issues, the election could have a major impact on the peace process to end decades of insurgency by Kurdish militants in Turkey and may have ramifications beyond Turkey's borders, with the country a vital Nato member.



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with his wife Emine, left