

Trump tops his rivals in raucous

Maverick tycoon takes centre stage at Republican presidential clash

Daniel Bates

in New York

DONALD TRUMP won a raucous first Republican presidential debate with a brash performance that was lapped up by the audience.

The real estate mogul hogged the spotlight during a testy two hours that descended into name-calling among the candidates.

Trump, 69, won the biggest cheer of the night when challenged about calling women "disgusting animals" with the quip: "Only Rosie O'Donnell."

His reference to the comedian and gay rights activist followed her Twitter feud with him, after he mocked her engagement to a woman and her weight.

But he suffered a blow when he admitted he was the only candidate who might run as an independent if he is not nominated by the Republicans.

Trump was positioned front-centre in the line-up of 10 Republican candidates after he came top in polls of the party's voters. He reeled off one-liners while the others tried to emphasise policy in front of a packed crowd in Cleveland, Ohio.

Trump told Jeb Bush that brother George W Bush's previous presidential administration was a "catastrophe".

On President Obama he said: "I'd say he's incompetent but I don't want to do that because it's not nice."

On his incendiary rhetoric on illegal immigration, Trump said: "If it weren't for me, you wouldn't even be talking about illegal immigration."

He was challenged by Fox News host Megyn Kelly for his tweets that included calling women "pigs, dogs and slobs".

Trump blasted back that he would stop being nice to her because of the way she had just gone after him – and was booed by the audience.

After then insulting O'Donnell, he won applause by saying: "The big problem this coun-



Making his points: Donald Trump gestures emphatically during the debate hosted by Megyn Kelly, left. Inset, Jeb Bush confronted by Trump, and Ted Cruz hugging

try has is being politically correct. I don't frankly have time for total political correct-

> ness – and to be honest this country doesn't have time either."

Trump, who has given donations to the Democrats in the past, was put on the spot by host Kelly

when she asked him: "When did you actually become a Republican?"

That followed a fiery start to the debate, when he was attacked by rival Rand Paul for "buying politicians".

Trump later turned the tables by revealing he had donated money to almost every candidate on the podium. His speech was littered with non-sequiturs and at one awkward point he declared: "We need brain in this coun-

try to turn it around." In what often looked like a contest to be rudest candidate, the more serious ones faded into the background. Bush, regarded as the most likely to win the Republican nomination, defended his family and said voters did want another one of its members in the White House.

The son of former President George Bush Snr said he was "proud of my dad and my brother" but insisted he was "my own man". Candidate Marco Rubio quietly answered questions on policy without being drawn into the dust-ups – but a long-simmering feud between Rand Paul and rival Chris Christie exploded into open hostilities in an exchange about surveillance.

Hopeful Ted Cruz won roars of approval with his answer to the question: "How could the US destroy Islamic State in 90 days?" He replied: "We need

Its anti-Japan time in North Korea...

Rashid Razaq

NORTH KOREA will establish its own time zone next week by putting the clocks back by 30 minutes.

It will take effect on August 15 – the 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule at the end of the Second World War. North Korea's official news agency said: "The wicked Japanese imperialists committed such unpardonable crimes as depriving Korea of even its standard time while mercilessly trampling down its land with 5,000-year-long history and culture and pursuing the unheard-of policy of obliterating the Korean nation."

Chunnel may shut at night in migrant crisis

Peter Allen in Paris

HUNDREDS of UK-bound migrants continued to try to storm the Channel Tunnel today following reports that it may be closed at night.

British ministers have taken legal advice about the radical move, and Whitehall sources confirmed the "nuclear option" of closing the undersea link to freight and passenger trains overnight was now a very real possibility.

"The migrants appear every night in large numbers and try to break into the secure zone around the tunnel," a Calais police source said. "There



Confrontation: a French policeman warns off migrants trying to reach the tunnel

were a number of attempted intrusions overnight, and many were stopped inside the perimeter too."

This comes came after the revelation

that one Sudanese migrant managed to walk the tunnel's entire length. He was arrested by British police on Tuesday, close to the Eurotunnel exit in Folkestone, Kent, after dodging trains travelling at 100mph.

He became the first man to be caught after successfully walking the length of the 31-mile link, after scaling four security fences and dodging 400 surveillance cameras before running in total darkness through it.

Nine migrants have been killed since June as they attempted to breach security in the tunnel.

Despite this, police have suggested that seven in 10 of the migrants

massing in Calais may have reached the UK, to claim asylum or disappear into the black economy.

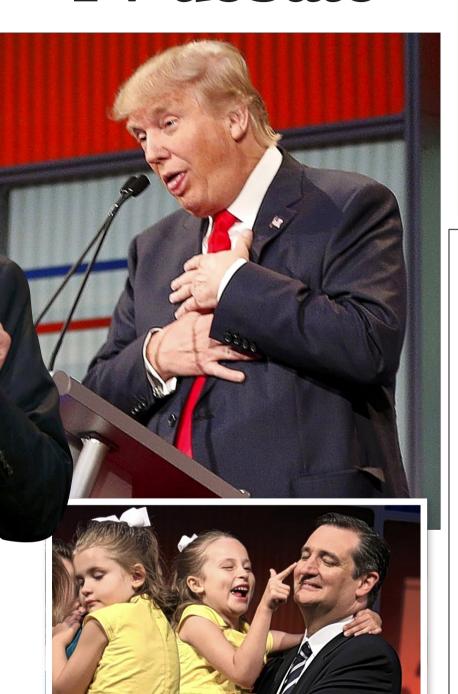
BBC's Songs Of Praise is to feature a Calais migrant camp in a forthcoming episode.

Producers are filming at a church in the area with host Aled Jones due to arrive at the site this weekend, according to The Sun.

A BBC spokeswoman said: "Songs Of Praise is a magazine-style programme. Each week it brings hymns from churches around the UK and short topical magazine features of interest to Christians from a range of places."

News

TV debate



his young daughters Catherine, left, and Caroline, right, on stage at the end

a Commander-in-Chief who speaks the truth. We will not defeat radical Islamic terrorism so long as we have a President unwilling to utter the words 'radical Islamic terrorism'.

"We need a Commander-in-Chief who makes clear that if you join IS, if you wage jihad on America, then you are signing your death warrant."

Trump has taken the Republican presidential debate by storm ever since

announcing he would run in June. He has fired up the party's base by claiming that Mexico was sending rapists and criminals over the border and vowing to build a wall to keep them out.

Polls have him at 26 per cent of the vote, followed by Bush on 15 per cent and Scott Walker on nine per cent.

In total there are 17 Republican candidates, making it the most crowded field in history.

French hostage freed after six months in captivity in Yemen

Rashid Razaq

A FRENCHWOMAN held hostage in Yemen for more than six months is due to return home after being released by her captors.

Isabelle Prime, 31, had been working in the country as a consultant for the World Bank for about a year when she was kidnapped in February.

She is now in the hands of French authorities and will be returned to France "in the coming hours," an official said.

Details of her release, including which group had been holding her, were not divulged. Pro-government



Anguish: Isabelle Prime had pleaded for release

forces have been fighting Shia rebels in the country.

Earlier this year, a video surfaced showing Ms Prime pleading for help. In the video, she appeared frail and anguished, and she urged the leaders of France and Yemen to allow her to return to France.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Eight killed and 400 hurt in Kabul lorry blast

AT least eight people were killed and some 400 injured when a bomb hidden inside a lorry exploded in the centre of the Afghan capital Kabul. The pre-dawn blast was near a defence compound, but the victims were all civilians, including women and children. Most were injured by flying glass. The target of the attack was unclear. Police do not allow lorries to enter Kabul during the daytime, but they can enter from 9pm until 5am.

Dr Dre puts his dollars straight into Compton

HIP HOP star and music tycoon Dr Dre is to donate all royalties from his new album to Compton, the tough LA suburb where he grew up. Cash from



IS kidnaps Christians from church in Syria

ISLAMIC State militants have abducted dozens of Christian families after seizing the town of Qaryatain in heavy fighting in the central Syrian province of Homs. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 230 people were kidnapped, including dozens of Christians, some of whom were taken from a church. IS has killed members of religious minorities and Sunni Muslims who do not swear allegiance to its self-declared "caliphate".

