

#PollToday



Will the introduction of income tax make GCC countries less attractive to expats?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can't Say



If Afghanistan needs more security assistance, Trump's administration, after assessing the needs, will focus on providing more security support

Ashraf Ghani
Afghan President

Rest in sight

Indonesia police plane missing, feared crashed



An Indonesian police plane carrying 13 people went missing Saturday on a short domestic flight and is feared crashed, police said.

China protests to US after Trump speaks to Taiwan leader

China protested to Washington yesterday after US President-elect Donald Trump broke with decades of foreign policy and spoke with the president of Taiwan.

Russia and Japan 'striving to resolve' island dispute

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said yesterday that the countries' leaders are pushing to end a territorial row.

China coal mine blasts kill 38: report

At least 38 people were killed in two separate Chinese coal mine blasts this week, according to a report by state media.

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Philippines fighting drugs the right way



Manila

US President-elect Donald Trump told Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte that Manila was conducting its deadly drug war "the right way", Duterte said yesterday, in stark contrast to the criticism he received from President Barack Obama.

The Philippine president called Trump late Friday evening to congratulate him on his election victory with Trump wishing him "success" in his controversial anti-crime crackdown, in which some 4,800 people have been killed since June, according to Duterte.

"He was quite sensitive also to our worry about drugs. And he wishes me well... in my campaign and he said that... we are doing it as a sovereign nation, the right way," Duterte said in a video released by his office Saturday.

"He was wishing me success in my campaign against the drug problem."

Trump's office released a brief statement following the conversation, saying Duterte had congratulated Trump and the two agreed to work together closely.

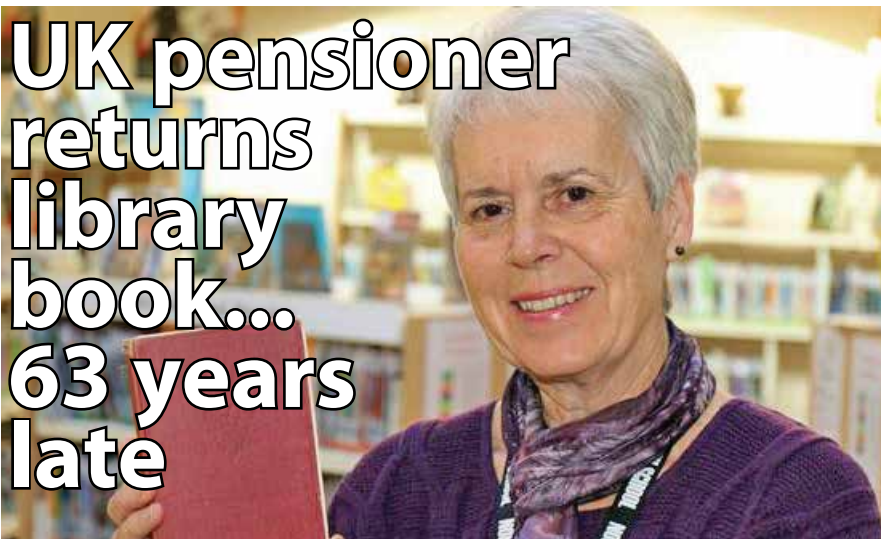
In October Duterte announced a "separation" from the United States and had called for the withdrawal of American troops from his country, putting into question Manila's 70-year-old alliance with Washington.

But on Saturday, Duterte said he "could sense a good rapport" with an "animated" Trump.

Video released by Duterte's office showed the Philippine leader laughing as he chatted on the phone, later saying Trump would be "a good president for the United States of America".

Duterte said the president-elect invited him to visit New York and Washington DC and he returned the favour by asking Trump to attend a regional summit that the Philippines is set to host next year. (AFP)

UK pensioner returns library book... 63 years late



London

A British pensioner has returned a library book to her school some 63 years after taking it out, the librarian said Friday.

The woman, now in her 70s, found the 1929 copy of "Travels With A Donkey In The Cevennes" by Robert Louis Stevenson while clearing out her house.

The book, which charts the author's 120-mile (195-kilometre) solo hike through the Cevennes mountains in southern France, contained a stamp showing it was due to be returned to North Walsham High School in Norfolk, eastern England, in 1953.

Luckily for the student, the market town school has a policy of not fining students for overdue

books. "The lady who brought back the Robert Louis Stevenson book apologised for not returning it sooner -- but better late than never," school librarian Liz Sawyer said, appealing for others with overdue books to do the same.

"While we don't lose many books, there must have been a few which have been inadvertently retained by students over the years," she said, adding: "It would be really nice to get some of them back." The world's largest fine for an overdue library book is \$345.14 (323 euros) according to Guinness World Records. That book, returned after 47 years by the borrower's daughter, was lent out by Kewanee Public Library in the US state of Illinois, and was due back in April 1955.