

Philippine police kill 25 more after Duterte's death call

Police officers work at a crime scene, where an alleged drug dealer was killed during a police anti-drug operation, in Manila

Manila
Police in the Philippine capital shot dead 25 drug suspects in another round of anti-drug raids, authorities said yesterday, as they followed President Rodrigo Duterte's call for dozens of deaths a day.

The killings, carried out in Manila from Wednesday to yesterday morning, came after police shot dead 32 drug suspects in the province neighbouring the capital early in the week in what was billed as a "shock and awe" operation against drug traffickers.

Manila police spokesman Senior Superintendent Erwin Margarejo said the 25 were killed in 18 various operations against drug suspects.

"It is a simultaneous police operation. All the units and stations of MPD (Manila

police district) conducted their own operations," Margarejo said.

Duterte on Wednesday praised the killings of the 32 suspects in Bulacan province, describing the operations as "good".

"If we could kill another 32 everyday, then maybe we can reduce what ails this country," Duterte said.

However national police spokesman Senior Superintendent Dionardo Carlos insisted that officers in Bulacan and Manila had killed only in self-defence.

"Can you blame the police now when the initial action is perpetrated by the suspect?" he said.

Duterte easily won last year's presidential election largely on a vow to kill tens of thousands of drug traffickers and addicts, which he said

was necessary to stop the country's slide to narco-state status.

Police have killed more than 3,500 people in drug raids since Duterte came to office in the middle of last year, according to government data.

More than 2,000 other people have been killed in drug-related crimes and thousands more murdered in unexplained circumstances, according to the police.

He has also repeatedly assured policemen that he will protect them if they are charged for killing drug suspects as part of his campaign.

Rights groups have warned Duterte, who has said he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts, may be orchestrating a crime against humanity. (AFP)

Malala wins place at Oxford

London
Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for advocating education for girls in her native Pakistan, announced yesterday she has won a place to study at Oxford University.

"So excited to go to Oxford!!" the 20-year-old posted on Twitter, along with a picture of the message she received confirming her acceptance on the philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) course.

The announcement came on the day that students across Britain received the



Malala Yousafzai

results of their A-levels, exams taken at the end of secondary school.

Yousafzai did not reveal her results, but said: "Well done to all A-level students -- the hardest year. Best wishes for

life ahead!"

She was just 15 years old when she was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in October 2012 as she travelled by bus home from an exam to her village in the Swat valley.

She was flown to the central English city of Birmingham for treatment, and has lived there with her family ever since, continuing her education and activism.

Yousafzai was granted the Nobel Peace prize aged 17 in 2014 along with India's Kailash Satyarthi for their championing of children's rights.

#PollToday



Philippine police killed 25 more drug suspects after Duterte's death call. Do you think the death toll will rise in the coming days?

Yes No Cant Say



"To me the economic war with China is everything. And we have to be maniacally focused on that. If we continue to lose it, we're five years away, I think, ten years at the most, of hitting an inflection point from which we'll never be able to recover"

Steve Bannon

White House strategist

Rest in sight

Hundreds of human bone fragments found in Mexico



More than 600 human bone fragments were found in a mass grave outside the Mexican city of Tijuana near the US border.

Two Bangladeshi die taking flood selfies

Two Bangladeshi teenagers have died taking selfies in raging floodwaters.

Russian ban on Jehovah's Witnesses comes into force

Russia's justice ministry has added Jehovah's Witnesses to its black list, formalising a ban for the Christian movement over alleged "extremist activities."

US man sentenced to life for killing Chinese student

A judge in California sentenced a 21-year-old man to life in prison in connection with the death of a university graduate student from China.

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10-year-old rape victim gives birth to baby girl

New Delhi

A 10-year-old rape victim whose plea for an abortion was rejected by India's Supreme Court has given birth to a baby girl, a doctor said yesterday.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was raped several times allegedly by an uncle who has since been arrested.

Last month her parents asked the country's top court to allow her to have a late-

term abortion but the request was turned down.

Indian law does not allow medical terminations after 20 weeks unless there is a threat to either the life of the mother or her child.

"She gave birth through C-section today (Thursday). Both the girl and her baby are doing fine," doctor Dasari Harish said by phone from the northern Indian city of Chandigarh.

Ancient species of giant sloth discovered in Mexico



The skull of a new species and genus of giant sloth

Mexico City
Mexican scientists said Wednesday they have discovered the fossilized remains of a previously unknown species of giant sloth that lived 10,000 years ago and died at the bottom of a sinkhole.

The Pleistocene-era remains were found in 2010, but were so deep inside the water-filled sinkhole that researchers were only gradually able to piece together what they were, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) said in announcing the find.

Scientists have so far hauled up the skull, jawbone,

and a mixed bag of vertebrae, ribs claws and other bones, but the rest of the skeleton remains some 50 meters (165 feet) under water, the INAH said.

Researchers are planning to bring up the rest by next year to continue studying the find -- including to estimate how big the animal was.

"They'll be putting the pieces together like a puzzle," INAH spokesman Arturo Mendez said.

The skeleton is nearly complete, leading scientists to believe the sloth "fell into the sinkhole when it was dry or had only a little water at the bottom," the researchers said.

Infamous Australian IS fighter 'likely' dead: minister

Sydney

Canberra said yesterday there was a "high probability" a notorious Islamic State fighter from Australia and two of his children had been killed in a US airstrike in Syria.

Reports said Khaled Sharrouf and his sons Abdullah, 12, and Zaraqawi, 11, were killed last Friday while driving near the IS bastion of Raqa.

Sharrouf sparked international revulsion in 2014 when he posted pictures on social media of Abdullah holding the rotting severed head of a soldier.

The father of five had used his other children in propaganda videos, including one that surfaced this year in which he grilled his youngest son about killing non-Muslims as the six-year-old handled guns and knives.

"Nobody will mourn his passing... I can assure you of that," Australia's Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told Channel Nine.

The Australian newspaper and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, both citing unnamed government sources, reported the death of Sharrouf and his sons.