

Son will be killed if found guilty: Duterte



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures as he gives a speech during the 116th anniversary of the Philippine National Police (PNP) at its headquarters in Manila (file photo)

Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has said he will have his son killed if drug trafficking allegations against the younger politician are true, and that the police who carry out the hit will be protected from prosecution.

Paolo Duterte, 42, this month appeared before a senate inquiry to deny accusations made by an opposition lawmaker he was a member of a Chinese triad who helped smuggle in a huge shipment of crystal methamphetamine from China.

President Duterte did not refer to the allegations specifically but reiterated his statement from last year's election campaign that none of his children were involved in drugs, but they would face the harshest punishment if they were.

"I said before my order was: 'If I have children who are into drugs, kill them so people will not have anything to say,'" Duterte said in a speech on Wednesday night before government workers at the presidential palace in Manila.

"So I told Pulong (Paolo's nickname): 'My order is to kill

you if you are caught. And I will protect the police who kill you, if it is true,'" he said.

Duterte, 72, won the presidential elections on a brutal law-and-order platform in which he promised an unprecedented campaign to eradicate illegal drugs in society by killing up to 100,000 traffickers and addicts.

Since he assumed office in the middle of last year, police have reported killing more than 3,800 people in anti-drug operations while thousands of others have been murdered in unexplained circumstances. (AFP)

US embassy employee kidnapped and freed

Caracas

An employee of the US embassy in Caracas was released early Wednesday after being kidnapped two days earlier by criminals demanding a ransom, police said.

Police said the employee, a Venezuelan national identified as Kerbin Barazarte, 28 -- whom they described as a security guard -- had been released unharmed and without payment of a ransom.

They said he was abducted while patrolling in a van near the embassy on Monday night. His captors, who were not identified, had demanded payment of \$30,000 for his release.

A colleague who was with him managed to evade the



A view shows the U.S. embassy building in Caracas

kidnappers, the police said.

The interior ministry announced on Tuesday that the US embassy van had been

recovered but that Barazarte was missing.

Police gave no details of the circumstances of his release.

#PollToday



Do you think a new nuclear deal with Iran is required as the country is trying to increase its influence in the region and pressing ahead with ballistic missile tests?

Yes No Cant Say



"We need the 2015 accord. Is this accord enough? It is not, given the growing pressure that Iran is applying in the region."

Emmanuel Macron
French President

Rest in sight

China raises bullet train speed



China increased the maximum speed of bullet trains on the Beijing-Shanghai line to 350 kilometres (217 miles) per hour, six years after a fatal accident led to a speed cap.

China lifts travel ban on feminist activist

China has lifted a 10-year travel ban on a feminist activist who was jailed for more than a month in 2015 after organising a campaign against sexual harassment.

UK airport to reunite teddies with owners

Hundreds of children separated from their beloved teddy bears are being given the chance to be reunited under an initiative launched by Glasgow Airport.

Sixth arrest over London attack

A sixth man was arrested in Britain as part of the probe into the bomb attack on a London Underground train last week

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India arrests eight alleged sex tourists for rape

New Delhi

Indian police have arrested eight Arab nationals accused of paying brokers thousands of dollars to arrange sham Islamic "marriages" with underage girls for sex, an officer said.

The five Omani and three Qatari men were detained in the southern city of Hyderabad where police had previously arrested wealthy sex tourists seeking so-called one month wives.

V Satyanarayana, deputy commissioner of police, said eight underage girls had

been removed from hostels across the city. Five brokers, three clerics and four hostel owners involved in the racket were also arrested.

"The Arab men paid between \$4,500 to \$15,500 to brokers who arranged the girls for short term marriages. They took help from qazis (clerics) to perform the rituals," Satyanarayana said.

The accused men, all in their late 60s, entered religious unions with the victims after arriving in Hyderabad last month, the officer added.

Man sets himself on fire outside NZ parliament



Police look at the scene where a lone protestor set himself on fire at Parliament in Wellington

Wellington

A man who set himself on fire outside New Zealand's parliament was in a critical condition yesterday, police said, just two days before the country's general election.

Fire and ambulance officers rushed to the man, who journalists at the Wellington building said was a lone protestor.

Radio New Zealand said witnesses reported seeing the man holding a placard

relating to the family court.

One unnamed bystander told the radio station he saw the incident from the nearby Backbencher hotel.

"Everyone was looking out the windows then people started rushing out of the Backbencher with buckets of water and stuff like that," he said.

"I hadn't actually seen what was happening but when smoke cleared there was a guy on the ground and he'd obviously been burned."

Malaysia jails Indonesian pirates for foiled hijacking

Kuala Lumpur

Eleven Indonesian pirates have been jailed for 16 years each for attempting to hijack an oil tanker off the coast of Malaysia, an official said yesterday.

The pirates tried to hijack the Thai-flagged tanker, which was carrying seven million ringgit (\$1.7 million) worth of diesel, off the coast of Terengganu state on peninsular Malaysia in early September.

They succeeded in boarding the vessel but Malaysian coastguard

commandos rushed to the vessel's last known location by helicopter after it disappeared off tracking systems.

The commandos descended by rope onto the vessel, and managed to detain the pirates. Fourteen Thai sailors on the tanker were unharmed.

A Malaysian court jailed the ten pirates who seized the tanker, and an 11th who masterminded the failed operation from land, said prosecutor Nurul Farahah Mohamad Suah.