



Luis Videgaray

Mexico rejects 'unilateral' US migration moves

Mexico City

Mexico vowed not to let the United States impose migration reforms on it as its leaders are prepared to host US officials who are cracking down on illegal immigrants.

Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray sharpened the tone over president Donald Trump's hard line on trade and immigration.

Trump has outraged Mexico by vowing to build a wall along the border to keep out migrants from Latin America, whom he branded rapists and criminals during his presidential campaign.

His government has issued new orders to begin arresting and deporting illegal immigrants, many of them Mexicans.

"The Mexican government and people do not have to accept measures that one government wants to impose unilaterally on another," Videgaray said late Wednesday.

"We are not going to accept that because we do not have to do it and it is not in Mexico's interests."

He said Mexico would use "all legally possible means" to defend Mexicans living abroad, including potentially appealing to the United Nations.

President Mexican Enrique Pena Nieto and Videgaray are scheduled to meet with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Homeland Security chief John Kelly.

US officials said the talks will focus on how to curb cross-border migration and

drug-trafficking and to affirm their bilateral ties.

Trump's stance has strained previously good US-Mexican relations, said Maureen Meyer, an expert at the Washington Office on Latin America, a US human rights advocacy organization.

"Secretary Tillerson has an opportunity to set relations on a more sound footing based on mutual respect," she said in a statement.

Pena Nieto had canceled a planned meeting with Trump in Washington last month over the US leader's vow to make Mexico pay for the wall.

But White House spokesman Sean Spicer insisted Wednesday that Washington has "a very healthy and robust relationship with the Mexican government." -(AFP)

Dutch 'abortion ship' due in Guatemala

The Hague

ADutch "abortion ship" was due to arrive in a Guatemalan port to provide free help to women to end unwanted pregnancies, aiming to circumvent the country's strict laws.

Abortion is only allowed in Guatemala in cases where the mother's life is in danger, the non-profit organisation Women on Waves said, adding there are some 65,000 illegal and unsafe abortions in the Central American country every year.

The ship will visit the harbour of the Puerto San Jose, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Guatemala City and will stay



Dutch "abortion ship", which sailed to Guatemalan port for five days, the organisation said in a statement.

"The ship can provide women with free legal medical abortions till 10 weeks of pregnancy after sailing to

international waters, 12 miles outside Guatemala," it added.

Counselling, treatment and after care would also be available for women seeking their services. -(AFP)

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Do you think the government decision to increase tax on big companies can boost economy?

Yes No Can't Say



France is committed to a two-state solution for the Middle East conflict and it is the only guarantee for Israel to remain a "pluralist and democratic society"

Francois Hollande
France President

Rest in sight

Japan's crown prince hints at readiness to take throne



Crown Prince Naruhito has suggested he is ready to take on the duties of emperor as the country prepares for its expected imperial abdication.

Record damages awarded over US army base noise

A Japanese court yesterday awarded record compensation for residents near a US military base over aircraft noise, but rejected their demand to suspend flights.

BBC journalist faces 5 years jail for Thailand reporting

A British journalist with the BBC faces up to five years in a Thai jail after a lawyer brought a criminal defamation case against him over an investigation into fraud on a popular tourist island.

New Somali PM named

Hassan Ali Kheyre, a former aid worker and oil executive, was named prime minister of Somalia yesterday by the country's new President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

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Indian politician spends state cash on lavish gifts

New Delhi

The head of India's newest state is facing condemnation after spending \$750,000 in public money on gold temple offerings to thank the gods for realising his long-held ambition.

Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao campaigned for decades for the creation of Telangana state in the south of India and had promised to donate gold to a local temple if he succeeded.

He recently flew to a popular Hindu temple in a chartered plane and presented a lotus-shaped necklace weighing nearly 15 kilos (33 pounds) and a five-



K Chandrasekhar Rao kilo collar as priests chanted vedic hymns.

An official in the Rao's office confirmed the donation and said it was "from the government of Telangana and its people".

Social media users laid into Rao, who has been criticised in the past over his lavish use of public funds.

SpaceX cargo ship finally reaches space station

Miami

An unmanned cargo ship packed with food and supplies for astronauts arrived safely yesterday at the International Space Station, a day after SpaceX aborted the process due to a GPS problem.

This time, the Dragon cargo ship made a "perfect approach to the capture point," a NASA commentator said.

The space station's 57-foot robotic arm, operated from inside the orbiting research lab by astronauts Thomas Pesquet of France and Shane Kimbrough of the United States, reached out and grabbed the Dragon.

"We had a great capture,"



Launch of SpaceX from the Kennedy Space Center

Kimbrough said.

The gumdrop-shaped Dragon vessel is packed with more than 5,000 pounds of food, gear and science experiments for the six astronauts living at the orbiting space station.

S. Korea blasts news of murder via loudspeaker

Seoul

South Korea is using giant loudspeakers to blast news of the dramatic assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's half-brother, Kim Jong-Nam, across the border with its reclusive northern neighbour, it was reported yesterday.

The South Korea this week employed its banks of high-decibel loudspeakers to ensure details of the death of Jong-Nam, once believed to be the likely heir, reverberated through wide swathes of the border area, Seoul's MBC TV station said.

"Kim Jong-Nam died after being attacked by two



Kim Jong-Nam unidentified women at the Kuala Lumpur Airport in Malaysia," blared the message from the speakers.

"Malaysian authorities said four suspects are North Korean nationals including one who has been arrested," it said.