

world

**Baby snatched by monkey dies**



Macaques monkeys sit on a wall overlooking people on a street in Agra

AFP | New Delhi, India

A baby died after a monkey snatched it from its mother's arms, Indian police investigating the incident in the city of Agra, home to the Taj Mahal, said yesterday.

The 12-day-old boy was being fed by his mother when a rhesus macaque monkey broke into the room late Monday, local deputy police chief Prashant Verma said.

The monkey grabbed the infant and jumped away along several rooftops in a crammed district of the global tourist hotspot, he said.

Locals chased the monkey down after the mother raised the alarm, forcing the animal to abandon the baby's body on top of a building.

Verma said the infant was declared dead on arrival at hospital but the family refused to allow a postmortem and the cause of death -- whether from a fall, bite or something else -- could not be ascertained.

**India braces for cyclone, puts navy on alert**

New Delhi, India

Tens of thousands of rescue personnel were on standby and many more people were evacuated in southern India yesterday as authorities braced for the arrival of Cyclone Gaja.

Schools were shut and fishing barred on the coastline of Tamil Nadu state in anticipation of the storm packing wind speeds of 80-90 kilometres (50-55 miles) per hour gusting to 100 kph, authorities said.

The Hindustan Times reported that 87,000 people had been evacuated from Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu and that 30,500 rescue personnel were on standby.

The National Disaster Management Force deployed 15 teams across Tamil Nadu, the neighbouring state of Kerala and the Andaman and Nicobar islands, ahead of the cyclone warning.

Moving towards Tamil Nadu from southwest Bay of Bengal the cyclone was expected to cross the state's coastline between Pamban and Cuddalore late Thursday evening.

# Need for 'power nap'

Philippines' Duterte skipped Asean meetings to take 'power naps'

Duterte has said previously that he suffers from daily migraines and ailments including Buerger's disease

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday made light of his penchant for daytime dozes after his office said "power naps" had caused the gruff leader to miss a number of key meetings at a Singapore summit.

Duterte is attending the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting alongside a string of world leaders including Russia's Vladimir Putin, Japan's Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and US Vice-President Mike Pence.

But on Wednesday, the mercurial leader missed four of the eleven meetings he was slated to



Duterte at the 2017 Asean china meeting (Courtesy of BBC)

attend, as well as a gala dinner hosted by Singaporean leader Lee Hsien Loong.

"What's wrong with my nap?" the 73-year-old told reporters as he arrived at the summit venue on Thursday morning for another long day of meetings.

Asked if he felt fully rested he replied: "Still not good enough, but enough to sustain the endurance for the last days."

Duterte's no-shows on Wednesday prompted a statement from his office explaining he had only had three hours of

**"We assure the nation that his aforementioned absence has nothing to do with his physical health and wellbeing which have been the subject of speculation"**

SALVADOR S. PANELO  
PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN

sleep the night before.

"He took power naps to catch (up) on sleep," presidential spokesman Salvador S. Panelo said, adding that "some quarters are making a big fuss of the president skipping a few meetings."

"We assure the nation that his aforementioned absence has nothing to do with his physical health and wellbeing which have been the subject of speculation," he added.

The outspoken leader remains popular at home even as he pursues a deadly drug war that has seen thousands killed and horrified western allies.

But he has regularly prompted theorising about his health by skipping events or discussing his ailments in public since taking power in 2016.

Duterte has said previously that he suffers from daily migraines and ailments including Buerger's disease, an illness that affects the veins and the arteries of the limbs, and is usually due to smoking.

Despite his deadly crackdown on drugs, he also revealed in 2016 that he used to take fentanyl, a powerful opiate painkiller, because of a spinal injury from previous motorcycle accidents.

He is the oldest person ever to be elected president in the Philippines, but he is far from the most veteran world leader attending ASEAN. That accolade goes to Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who is 20 years older than Duterte.

## El Chapo was co-leader, informant tells US trial

New York, United States

Drug baron Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman co-headed the Sinaloa cartel, an informant told his US trial Wednesday, skewering defense claims that he was little more than a scapegoat and spilling the operational secrets of the criminal enterprise.

Jesus "El Rey" Zambada, brother of still-at-large co-de-



The wife of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, Emma Coronel Aispuro, exits the US Federal Courthouse in Brooklyn

fendant Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, was one of the first witnesses to take the stand on the second day of what is expected to be a more than four-month trial. In US custody since 2008, he testified at length about the import-export business of the Sinaloa, which rose to prominence after 1997, when Colombia changed the law, allowing its citizens to be extradited to the United States.

## Japan cyber security minister admits shunning PCs

Tokyo, Japan

A Japanese minister in charge of cyber security has provoked astonishment by admitting he has never used a computer in his professional life, and appearing confused by the concept of a USB drive.

Yoshitaka Sakurada, 68, is the deputy chief of the government's cyber security strategy office and also the minister in charge of the Olympic and Paralympic Games that Tokyo will host in 2020.

In parliament on Wednesday however, he admitted he doesn't use computers.

"Since the age of 25, I have instructed my employees and secretaries, so I don't use computers myself," he said in a response to an opposition ques-

tion in a lower house session, local media reported.

He also appeared confused by the question when asked about whether USB drives were in use at Japanese nuclear facilities.

His comments were met with incredulity by opposition lawmakers.

"It's unbelievable that someone who has not touched computers is responsible for cyber security policies," said opposition lawmaker Masato Imai.

"Doesn't he feel ashamed?" wrote one Twitter user.

"Today any company president uses a PC. He doesn't even know what a USB is. Holy cow."

Sakurada has been in office just over a month, after being appointed in a cabinet reshuffle following Prime Minister Shin-



Yoshitaka Sakurada

zo Abe's reelection as head of his political party.

But he has already come fire for other gaffes in parliament including garbling an opposition lawmaker's name and repeatedly stating "I don't know the details" when questioned about his new Olympic brief.

## Pilots accuse Boeing didn't disclose new control feature

Graphic News

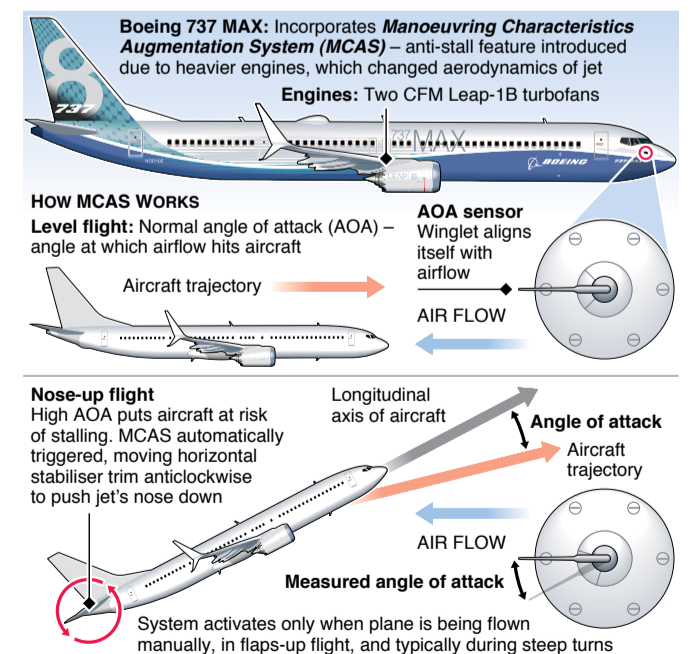
Boeing failed to tell airline pilots about features of a new flight-control system suspected of playing a role in the fatal crash of an Indonesian 737 MAX plane, according to pilots who fly the jet in the US.

Pilots say they were not trained in new features of an anti-stall system in the aircraft that differ from previous models of the popular 737.

The automated system is designed to help pilots avoid

raising the plane's nose too high, which can cause the plane to stall, or lose the aerodynamic lift needed to keep flying. The system automatically pushes the nose of the plane down.

But if that nose-down command is triggered by faulty sensor readings -- as suspected in the Indonesian Lion Air crash -- pilots can struggle to control the plane, which can go into a dive and perhaps crash, according to a Boeing safety bulletin and safety regulators.



In Oct 29 Lion Air crash that killed 189 people in Indonesia, investigators have determined that AOA sensor was feeding bad data to jet's flight computer, repeatedly activating MCAS when there was no risk of stall

Sources: AP, JAO Aero Media LLC, New York Times, Seattle Times © GRAPHIC NEWS