Germany hands Kunduz camp to Afghans

AFP, Kunduz

Germany yesterday handed over command of its northern Kunduz camp to Afghan security forces, a milestone in the drawdown from a more than decade-long military

deployment. About 100,000 German troops have served in

Afghanistan since 2002, and 54 have died there --35 of them in combat -- in Germany's deadliest post-World War II deployment.

International forces are due to end major combat operations in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, although Germany and others have pledged to continue a training and support mission beyond then.

Head trauma puts Kirchner on rest

Argentina's

AFP, Buenos

President Cristina Kirchner, 60, has

been ordered to rest for a month after doctors found a brain hemorrhage linked to an August incident, her spokesman said Saturday. The official said that

Argentina's first democratically-elected female leader was not ordered to be on total rest. He did not indicate whether Vice President Amado Boudou would take over any of her duties during her recover.

Ireland rejects PM's plan to scrap senate

AFP, Dublin

Ireland's Prime Minister Enda Kenny vowed to push forward with reform of the upper house of parliament after voters rejected his plan to abolish the senate to save the bailed-out eurozone nation money.

In a surprise blow for Kenny after he personally led the campaign to ditch the senate, voters in a referendum on Friday narrowly opted to keep the 60member house, according to results announced late Saturday.

Egypt frees two detained Canadians

AFP, Ottawa

Egyptian authorities have released two Canadians who had been held without charge in a crowded, cockroach-infested prison cell in Cairo since mid-August, Canadian officials said yesterday.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomed the release of John Greyson, a Toronto filmmaker and university professor, and Tarek Loubani, an emergency room doctor from London, Ontario.

NEWSIN US raids terror bases in Somalia, Libya

Captures key al-Qaeda leader Abu Anas al-Libi

AFP, Washington

US forces struck two militant targets in Africa on Saturday, snatching a top al-Qaeda suspect from the streets of Tripoli and launching a pre-dawn raid against a Shebab leader's home in Somalia.

In Libya, US forces seized a militant known as Abu Anas al-Libi, a longsought al-Qaeda operative indicted in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

A separate raid in the southern Somali port of Barawe failed to capture the senior militant and it was unclear whether he had been killed, but a US official said several al-Qaeda-linked Shebab members had been slain. It was reportedly "prompted" by the

deadly militant siege on a Nairobi shopping mall last month that killed 67 people. The operation in Libya however

appeared to be a success.

"As the result of a US counterterrorism operation, Abu Anas al-Libi is currently lawfully detained by the US military in a secure location outside of Libya," Pentagon spokesman George Little said in a statement.



Abu Anas al-Libi was on the FBI©s most wanted list

Age: 49

He was sought for his role in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania

A source close to Libi told AFP he was snatched by armed men in Tripoli. Libi, who was on the FBI's most

wanted list with a \$5 million reward, was indicted in US federal court in New York for allegedly playing a key role in the east Africa bombings. The attacks left more than 200 peo-

ple dead. His capture ended a 15-year man-

hunt for a key al-Qaeda operative, who was born under the name Nazih Abdul Hamed Al-Raghie. It also paved the way for Libi, 49, to

be brought to the US to face trial.

We hope that this makes clear that

the United States of America will never stop in its effort to hold those accountable who conduct acts of terror," said Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday, speaking from the Indonesian island of Bali. The action should also make clear

that "those members of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations literally can run, but they can't hide," said Kerry, speaking during a break from meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The US raid took place in broad daylight with the knowledge of the

Libyan government, a US official told CNN. Libyan security services denied the claim, saying they were unaware of any kidnapping or arrest of the man. According to the indictment, Libi and other al-Qaeda members dis-

cussed attacking the US Embassy in Nairobi as early as 1993, and even took pictures of the mission. In 1994 Libi allegedly drew up plans to attack the mission as well as a

building that housed the United States Agency for International Development, as well as British, French and Israeli targets.

Syria chem arms removal begins

AFP, Damascus

Experts yesterday began the process of destroying Syria's chemical weapons arsenal under the terms of a UN resolution that will see Damascus relinquish its banned weapons, an official told AFP.

The source in the international mission said the experts would verify details of the arsenal turned over by the Syrian government and start the process of destroying the weapons and production facilities. An official in the joint mission said Sunday that mem-

bers of the team "have left for a site where they are beginning verification and destruction." "Today is the first day of destruction, in which heavy

vehicles are going to run over and thus destroy missile war-

heads, aerial chemical bombs and mobile and static mixing and filling units," he said. An OPCW official said earlier this week that all "expedient methods" would be used to render Syria's production

facilities unusable, including explosives, sledgehammers, or pouring in concrete. The team faces the massive task of destroying an estimated 1,000 tonnes of the nerve agent sarin, mustard gas

and other banned arms at dozens of sites in Syria by mid-2014 in line with the UN resolution. As the operation got underway, President Bashar al-Assad admitted in an interview with Germany's Spiegel news magazine that his government made "mistakes" in the

But he denied again his forces used chemical weapons in an August 21 attack that eventually led to the UN resolution requiring Syria turn over it arsenal of the banned weapons.

Syria agreed to relinquish its chemical arsenal for destruction under a UN resolution that enshrined a US-Russian agreement.

28 killed in Egypt clashes

AFP, Cairo

At least 28 people were killed in clashes between Islamists and police in Egypt yesterday, as thousands of supporters of the military marked the anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Supporters of deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, overthrown in a July military coup, tried to converge on a central Cairo square for the anniversary celebrations, when police confronted them.

At least 28 people were killed in Cairo and elsewhere and 83 were wounded, sources said.

Supporters of Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood had marched in several cities to denounce the military's July 3 overthrow of the Islamist leader as several thousand people, some carrying pictures of army chief, waved Egyptian flags to mark the occasion. In central Cairo, policemen

fired shots and tear gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters. AFP correspondents saw them arrest and beat several suspected demonstrators.



the dike as Typhoon Fitow moves to make its landfall in Wenling, east China's Zhejiang province, yesterday. China was on its highest alert for Typhoon Fitow, with tens of thousands evacuated as the storm was set to slam into the east coast.

Huge waves hit

country's brutal civil conflict.

PHOTO:

Iraq violence kills 93 in two days

Two suicide bombers detonated explosives-rigged vehicles at a police station and a nearby primary school in northern Iraq yesterday, killing 15 people including children, as the combined death toll hits 93 since Saturday.

are persistent fears that Iraq will relapse into the kind of intense Sunni-Shiite bloodshed that peaked in 2006-2007 and killed tens of thousands of people.

the Syrian border, also wounded 44 people, Abdulal Abbas told AFP. The dead were five police and 10 children, Abbas said

pilgrims in the Iraqi capital yesterday, killing at least five people and wounding at least 17, officials said. The blasts came a day after violence including an attack on Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad and a suicide bombing at a

cafe north of the capital killed at least 73 people. In Iraq, almost nothing is safe from attack by militants,

AFP, Yangon

Violence has reached a level unseen since 2008, and there

The blasts in the Turkmen Shiite village of Qabat, near

adding that the bombing at the school collapsed the roof of the building. Separately, a suicide bomber attacked Shia

who have struck highly-secured targets such as prisons, and also bombed cafes, markets, mosques, football fields, weddings and funerals.

Iran arrests 4 in nuke 44 arrested after riots in Myanmar

Police have arrested 44 people in connection with deadly anti-Muslim violence in western Myanmar, state media said yesterday, after the latest violence erupted during a presidential tour of the strife-torn region.

Days of tensions in the town of Thandwe in restive Rakhine State turned into bloodshed on Tuesday, with a mob of hundreds descending on one outlying village torching homes and attacking local Muslims.

The New Light of Myanmar newspaper said 42 men and two women were being questioned over their suspected involvement in unrest from September 29 to October 1.

plant 'sabotage plot' AFP, Tehran

Iran has arrested four people suspected of attempting to sabotage one of its nuclear plants, Atomic Energy Organisation chief Ali Akbar Salehi said yesterday.

"Some time ago, we uncovered sabotage activities by several people at a nuclear plant," Salehi said in comments carried by the Mehr news agency.

"We let them continue their activities so that we could gather more intelligence. "We arrested them at the appropriate moment and their

interrogation is ongoing." Salehi did not specify which of Iran's nuclear plants was targeted. In August last year, saboteurs blew up power lines supplying Iran's underground uranium enrichment plant at

Fardo outside the central city of Qom. In 2010, a US cyber-attack, reportedly carried out in collaboration with Israel, hit Iran's nuclear facilities. The Stuxnet virus was tailored specifically to target uranium enrichment facilities.

In recent years, Iran has detained a number of alleged US or Israeli agents accused of spying on, or attempting to sabotage, its nuclear programme.

Several Iranian nuclear engineers have also been killed in what Tehran says were assassinations by foreign intelligence services.

once.

Nobels.

US worries rule APEC summit

Pentagon recalls furloughed staff

The US government yesterday warned that business in

AFP, Nusa Dua

America was suffering from the federal shutdown as concern about Washington's policy paralysis was voiced at an Asia-Pacific summit marred by the enforced absence of President Barack Obama. The first government closure in 17 years has directly

affected hundreds of thousands of federal employees, but Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said companies were also starting to hurt, not least from her department's inability to collate vital economic data. The Pentagon said Saturday it will recall most of its fur-

loughed employees.US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced that most of the estimated 400,000 furloughed Pentagon employees will be called back to work next week. Apart from APEC, Obama is also missing a separate East

Asian summit this week and scheduled trips to Malaysia and the Philippines. His failure to come coincides with a diplomatic push by China in Southeast Asia featuring highprofile visits by President Xi Jinping, who is at APEC. Speaking at a Bali meeting of APEC business leaders

which Obama had also been scheduled to address, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the president's no-show was "a very big disappointment to us". While expressing sympathy for Obama's domestic tra-

vails, Lee said "no other country can replace" US engagement in Asia. "Not China, not Japan, not any other power. That is

something which we continue and encourage at every opportunity." At APEC, Obama had been set personally to push for the "Trans-Pacific Partnership", a US-led free-trade pact that involves 12 countries but excludes China, which is a key

player in a proposed 16-nation accord centred instead on Southeast Asia. Analysts say the bitter bipartisan divide in Washington is

distracting the White House from key foreign policy goals such as the TPP, which forms part of a broader strategic "pivot" towards the Asia-Pacific region as China flexes its muscles.

Lives of Albania's children of doom

AFP, Mazrek

Since they were born, nine-year-old Nikolin and his older brother Amarildo, 12, have never left their house in Albania. They do not play outside, nor do they go to school. The boys are imprisoned because of a blood feud, or ven-

Their uncle killed a neighbour in a 1993 dispute and, although he was jailed for 25 years, the victim's family -- living

detta, with neighbours that has made them fear for their lives.

The brutal custom is widely followed in the poor mountainous regions in the north of the country, but also in some villages and towns in

other regions. Nikolin and village about 150 km

north of the Tirana. They are sur-

graphs of dead relatives on the walls, their small window

The bitter feud has already led to some casualties and the two youngsters, entangled through no fault of their own, could be next. The boys' mother, Vjollca, recently committed suicide, unable to stand her family's captive life any more. She was 29.

The boys' only link with the outside world is their

teacher, Liljana Luani, who comes twice a month. "The children of vendetta are condemned to death," says Luani, who has asked the Albanian authorities to bring an

end to what she calls an "unacceptable crime for a country that wants to integrate into Europe".

only a dozen metres away -- has vowed to avenge the death. The Nobel Prizes in numbers Albanians still respect the tradition of vendetta, which dates back to the 15th century and spares no male in a family, including babies. Between 1901 and 2012, a total of

Amarildo spend most of their lives in a cold, sombre room at their home in Mazrek, a

rounded by photo-

could be much higher.

covered with iron bars.

The rival family gave them three days to mourn and bury her, promising not to kill them during that time.

Almost 600 Albanian children were unable to start the new school year in September from vendetta threats. Police say there have been 225 victims of blood feuds in Albania in the last 14 years, but activist groups estimate the real number

Is Prince Harry marrying next year?

MAIL ONLINE

Prince Harry's girlfriend has overcome her concerns about marrying into the Royal family, it was claimed yesterday.

take place next year, according to friends of the couple.

'Cressie is going to marry Harry,' one of the dance student's friends told The Sunday Telegraph.

Cressida Bonas, 24, has 'got used to the idea' of marriage and children with the 30year-old Prince - and a wedding is expected to

Harry has been dating Miss Bonas since July

2012 and sparked rumours in August when he whisked her off on an African safari, just like his brother William did with Kate in 2010 when he proposed.

Malala invited to Buckingham Palace

AFP, London

Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, shot last year by the Taliban for campaigning for girls' schooling, has been invited to a **Buckingham Palace** reception to meet Queen Elizabeth II, officials said yesterday. The queen and her

husband Prince Philip will host the event promoting education in Commonwealth countries on October 18. Academics and teachers

will be among the guests at the October 18 event. The announcement is

the latest in a series of impressive accolades for Malala's campaign for girls' schooling. The 16-year-old is also among the favourites to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which will be revealed on October 11.

AFP, Stockholm

Who is the oldest Nobel laureate, and who is the youngest? How many women have won a Nobel? How many married couples? Here are some of the answers, based on the Nobel Foundation's figures.

The oldest laureate to win a Nobel was Russian-born American Leonid Hurwicz, who was 90 years of age when he won the economics prize in 2007. He lived only a few months longer, passing away in June 2008. In 2007 British author Doris

Lessing became the oldest winner of the literature prize, aged 87 when her name was announced. British author Rudyard Kipling remains the youngest Nobel literature laureate ever honoured, aged 42 when he took home the prize in 1907. British laureate Lawrence Bragg,

ing Marie Curie twice -- and 795 men.

when he won and remains the youngest laureate in the history of the prizes. The average age of all Nobel laureates in all prize

categories between 1901 and 2012 is 59 years. Since 1901 when the first Nobel prizes were awarded, 44 women have been honoured -- includ-

Nobel Prize 2013 Medicine Monday 7 Oct

Physics





Economics Monday 14 Oct

when they won the Nobel Peace Prize: German pacifist and journalist Carl von Ossietzky (1935), Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (1991) and Chinese dissident Liu

A record 259 nominations have been received for

of State Henry Kissinger.

secret for 50 years.

who won the physics prize in 1915, was 25 years old Xiaobo (2010).

834 individuals and 21 unique

organisations have received the

Nobel prize, including some who

have been honoured more than

Six fathers and sons have won a

Nobel, but there has been only one

father-daughter and one mother-

daughter pair among the laureates.

Three married couples have won

Six laureates have declined :

Nobel. The only two to do so of their

own will were France's Jean-Paul

Sartre, who turned down the 1964

Literature Prize, and Vietnam's

then-prime minister Le Duc Tho,

who refused to share the 1973

Nobel Peace Prize with US Secretary

Three laureates were in prison

the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. The names of the nomi nees and the committee's deliberations are kept