

NEWSIN
brief

Dilip Kumar
hospitalised

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New
Delhi

Veteran
Indian
actor Dilip
Kumar was
yesterday
admitted to
Lilavati
Hospital in
Mumbai for treatment of
pneumonia.

"Dilip Kumar has been
admitted for pneumonia.
He is suffering from cough
and cold. We have put him
on antibiotic treatment. He
is not in ICU," Dr Jalil
Parker of Lilavati Hospital
said.

The 91-year-old actor
was hospitalised in
September last year after
suffering a heart attack.

Known as Bollywood's
"King of Tragedy", he
 essayed iconic roles in
classics like "Devdas",
"Madhumati", "Mughal-e-
Azam" and "Ganga
Jamuna".

HK student leadercalls
off hunger strike

AFP, Hong Kong

Joshua Wong, the teenage
face of Hong Kong's pro-
democracy movement,
yesterday said he has
ended a four-day hunger
strike designed to force
the government into
further talks on political
reform. The 18-year-old,
who had not eaten in 108
hours, said he felt "ex-
treme physical discom-
fort, dizziness and weak-
ness in the limbs". Wong
and two young female
members of his
Scholarism student group
announced the "indefi-
nite" hunger strike last
Sunday.

Swiss abductee flees
Philippines abductors

AFP, Manila

A Swiss
man kid-
napped by
Islamic
militants
in the
southern Philippines
nearly three years ago
escaped under fire on
Saturday as soldiers
attacked his abductors in
a remote jungle, the mili-
tary said. Lorenzo
Vinciguerra was cut with a
machete then shot at
while running from the
Abu Sayyaf gunmen on
the lawless island of Jolo,
but reached the Filipino
troops with only minor
injuries. However a Dutch
man who was abducted
with Vinciguerra, Ewold
Horn, had been unable to
run away because he was
too frail.



NIGHTMARE BACK AGAIN

Residents are evacuated to a safer place in Legazpi City, Albay province, southeast of Manila yesterday ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Hagupit. Packing winds up to 210 kilometres per hour, the typhoon pounded the eastern Philippines yesterday as millions took shelter from the giant storm that threatened more devastation for a nation battling to recover from a catastrophic super Typhoon Haiyan that claimed more than 7,350 lives.

PHOTO: AFP

US NO-CHARGE JURY DECISIONS

UN concerned over
'pattern of impunity'

AGENCIES

UN human rights experts have
expressed "legitimate concerns" about
US juries failing to charge policemen
involved in the deaths of two black
civilians.

It is part of a broader "pattern of
impunity" concerning minority vic-
tims, the UN said in a statement.

Thousands of people have taken to
the streets in protest over the deaths of
two black men at the hands of white
officers in recent months.

Grand juries in Missouri and New
York failed to charge either officer.

"I am concerned by the grand juries'
decisions and the apparent conflicting
evidence that exists relating to both
incidents," UN Special Rapporteur on
minority issues, Rita Izsak, said in a
statement.

A trial process would ensure the
evidence is considered in detail, she



- 13% of the US population is black
- 28% of suspects arrested in the US in 2010 were black
- 32% of people killed from 2003-2009 in arrest-related incidents were black
- 42% of inmates on death row in 2012 were black

said.

"The decisions leave many with
legitimate concerns relating to a pat-
tern of impunity when the victims of

excessive use of force come from
African-American or other minority
communities."

The UN findings come amid ongo-
ing protests over the death of Eric
Garner, a black man held in an appar-
ent chokehold by a white New York
police officer.

After two nights of protests in New
York, the city is preparing for the
funeral of a man apparently inadver-
tently shot by a policeman in a dark
stairwell.

Akai Gurley, 28, a father of a young
daughter, was shot dead when a police
officer opened fire in a dimly lit stair-
case at a Brooklyn apartment building
as he walked with his girlfriend late on
November 20.

On Friday, the Brooklyn district
attorney's office said a grand jury
will consider bringing charges in the
case.

Additional 1,000 troops
to stay in Afghanistan

Hagel says in Kabul as Carter replaces him

AFP, Kabul

An additional 1,000 US troops will remain
in Afghanistan next year to meet a tempo-
rary shortfall in Nato forces, US Defense
Secretary Chuck Hagel said yesterday during
a visit to Kabul.

President Barack
Obama approved the
move despite an earlier
plan to limit the US
force to a maximum of
9,800 troops in 2015.

A protracted Afghan
election delayed the
signing of security deals
with the United States and Nato countries,
which set back plans for Western govern-
ments to contribute troops to the post-2014
mission, Hagel said.

About 130,000 Nato troops were fighting
in Afghanistan in 2010 at the peak of the
foreign intervention, after the 2001 fall of

the Taliban regime that sheltered Al-Qaeda.
The Nato support force taking over on
December 31 will be 12,500-strong, made
up of mainly US, German and Italian
troops.

The Pentagon chief added US forces
would also maintain a
limited counter-
terrorism mission to
prevent "al-Qaeda
from using
Afghanistan as a safe
haven to threaten the
United States."

Obama on Friday
named Ashton Carter,
a technocrat and academic with long experi-
ence working in the Pentagon, to replace
Hagel as defense secretary.

Hagel, who took office in February 2013,
resigned last month, rejecting accounts that
he was forced out and saying it was a mutual
agreement with the US president.



Chuck Hagel



Ashton Carter

PERMANENT MILITARY BASE
UK enters Mid East again

BBC ONLINE

Britain is to establish its first permanent
military base in the Middle East since it
formally withdrew from the region in 1971.

The base, at the Mina Salman Port in
Bahrain, will host ships including destroy-
ers and aircraft carriers.

The UK said it was an "expansion of the
Royal Navy's footprint" and would "rein-
force stability" in the Gulf.

Bahrain will pay most of the £15m
(\$23m) needed to build the base, with the
British paying ongoing costs.

UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond,
who signed the deal at a security conference
in Manama, Bahrain, said it was "just one
example of our growing partnership with
Gulf partners to tackle shared strategic and
regional threats".

BBC security correspondent Frank
Gardner said there was already a "rotating
presence" of four British minesweepers at
the Mina Salman Port, but the UK had been
"piggybacking" on the US naval base there.

He said the new facility would be one of
the most important Royal Navy bases in the

world and would be used for a "whole host
of things" including supporting UK opera-
tions in Iraq, where RAF jets have been
attacking targets as part of a US-led coalition
against ISIS militants.

The base would also be used for opera-
tions against piracy and for aerial surveil-



lance, he added. He also said the threat of ISIS
may have made Gulf monarchies "content to
invite British forces to set up on their soil".

UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon
added: "This new base is a permanent
expansion of the Royal Navy's footprint and
will enable Britain to send more and larger
ships to reinforce stability in the Gulf."

Putin, Hollande attempt
to defuse Ukraine bomb

AFP, Moscow

French President Francois Hollande yester-
day became the first European leader to fly
to Russia in an attempt to defuse the stand-
off with Vladimir Putin over Ukraine, where
the latest round of peace talks will take place
next week.

Meeting with Putin in the diplomatic
terminal of an airport outside the capital,
Hollande said he hoped to stop a new Berlin
wall from appearing in Europe, as the con-
flict in eastern Ukraine plunged its relations
with Moscow to a post-Cold War low.

"There are times when we need to seize
opportunities. This is such a time... I think
we must prevent other walls from separating
us," said Hollande, who also spoke to
Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko ear-
lier in the day.

"We must find solutions together," he

told the Russian leader, who this week gave a
militant speech accusing the West of under-
mining Russia.

As the two sat across from one another,
Putin said there are "difficult problems" at
hand but that he was sure the visit would
"without a doubt contribute to the resolu-
tion of many problems," one of which was
bound to be Hollande's decision to delay
delivery of a Mistral-class helicopter carrier
to the Russian navy.

Hollande's last-minute visit, which a source
in his delegation said was also agreed with
German Chancellor Angela Merkel, comes as
Kiev announced a fresh round of talks with the
pro-Russian separatists next week.

Ukraine and the rebels, whose fighting in
the east has already claimed more than
4,300 lives, have agreed to suspend military
operations on December 9, calling it a "Day
of Silence".

ISIS seizes part of
key Syria base

AFP, Beirut

Jihadists from the Islamic State group seized part of the key
regime air base at Deir Ezzor in eastern Syria in fierce fight-
ing yesterday, a monitoring group said.

"ISIS mounted a dawn attack on Deir Ezzor military
airport and entered several areas as fierce clashes unfolded
between the jihadists and regime forces there," the Syrian
Observatory for Human Rights said.

The assault began with a suicide bomber targeting the
main gate, followed by an artillery bombardment, the
Britain-based group said.

Jihadist fighters managed to seize a missile facility in the
southeast of the complex, it added.

Fighting was also reported inside Deir Ezzor city itself.

On Friday, the Observatory said the militants were closing
in on the base, nearly surrounding its beleaguered garrison.

The ISIS offensive against the airport began on
Wednesday, and by early Saturday had resulted in the deaths
of 121 people on both sides -- 70 jihadists and 51 members
of pro-government forces, it said.

Several of those killed on the government side were cap-
tured and beheaded, the Observatory said, adding that two
of the dead jihadists were French nationals.

The Deir Ezzor air base is a key regime outpost from
which warplanes and helicopters mount raids on jihadist
positions in several areas of the war-ravaged country.

IS fighters control most of Deir Ezzor province, but half
of its capital remains in government hands.



Kenyatta says
he is
'vindicated'

AFP, The Hague

Kenya's President Uhuru
Kenyatta said he had been
"vindicated" after the
International Criminal
Court's chief prosecutor
dropped charges of crimes
against humanity against
him on Friday.

The announcement dealt
a massive blow to the Hague-
based tribunal after a long-
running and troubled case.

It came two days after the
ICC's judges gave prosecu-
tors one week to strengthen
or drop the charges against
Kenyatta, saying a trial could
no longer be postponed.

Kenyatta, who has main-
tained his innocence
throughout, reacted by
saying his conscience was
"absolutely clear" in the case
linked to the country's
2007-08 post-election vio-
lence, the worst in its history
since it won independence
from Britain in 1963.

"For the prosecutor to
sustain an obviously defi-
cient case for so long dem-
onstrates beyond doubt the
intensity of pressure exerted
by improper interests to
pollute and undermine the
philosophy of international
justice," the president said.

Kenyatta vowed to fight
on until two remaining
cases at the ICC against
Kenyans, including one
against his deputy William
Ruto, are dropped.

"As they say, one case
down, two more to go,"
Kenyatta said in a Twitter
message.

Chief prosecutor Fatou
Bensouda called the deci-
sion "a dark day for interna-
tional criminal justice."

Jet crash that opened
US presidency to JFK

MAIL ONLINE

Residents in a quiet English village are calling for a perma-
nent memorial to the older brother of JFK who had been
tipped as a future US president but died in a plane crash.

Lieutenant Joe P Kennedy, the brother of John F Kennedy,
had been at the controls of an American bomber flying over
Blythburgh in Suffolk in August 1944 after taking off from
RAF Fersfield.

The navy pilot had been on a top secret mission named
Operation Anvil, which aimed to target German forces in
northern France. But the air-
craft, packed with 21,000lbs of
explosives blew up killing all
on board and the remains of
the crew were never found.

Lieutenant Kennedy's death
hit the family hard, particu-
larly his father Joe Kennedy
Senior, who was said to have
been grooming him to be the
first Irish Catholic US presi-
dent.

After his death, the former
American ambassador to the
UK, then started pinning his
hopes on his second son John, who eventually became the
35th president of the United States in January 1961.

No memorial or has ever been put up in the village and
there is no grave for the former pilot and now local military
groups are calling for a simple tribute.

It is thought that the crash had been caused by a lack of
electrical shielding and Lieutenant Kennedy was posthu-
mously awarded the the Navy Cross, the Distinguished
Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

It is also understood that JFK later visited the crash site of
where his brother died.



Developing world

FROM PAGE 16

But many developed coun-
tries insist the deal, due to be
signed in Paris in December
2015 to enter into force by
2020, should focus on miti-
gation -- meaning efforts to
curb planet-warming green-
house gas emissions.

Steiner said the new
report "underlines the
importance of including
comprehensive adaptation
plans in the agreement."

The UN's top climate
science body, the
Intergovernmental Panel on
Climate Change (IPCC), has
projected adaptation costs in
developing countries to reach
\$70-100 billion per year by
2050, based largely on World
Bank figures from 2010.

But the new UNEP report
said this was likely a "signifi-
cant underestimate", even if
warming can be limited to
two degrees Celsius this
century -- which many sci-
entists say is unlikely.

Data gathered by research
institutions, based on a wider
and more detailed database,
found that "at a minimum, the
costs of adaptation are likely two
to three times higher," it said.

And on some calculations,
based on national-level rather
than global-level studies,
"adaptation costs could climb

as high as \$150 billion by
2025/2030 and \$250-500
billion per year by 2050" --
and double that if the global
average temperature rise is
allowed to approach 4C.

Senior climate change
advisor Mohamed Adow of
Christian Aid said some
developing countries were
already at their financial
limit for climate adaptation.

"It's a cruel irony that it is
the rich countries whose
carbon emissions helped
create these climate change
impacts that don't want adap-
tation to be a central part of the
Paris agreement," he said.

Sandeep Chamling Rai,
adaptation policy advisor to
green group WWF, added that the
report "opens up a window onto
a nightmare future, where the
global economy is crippled and
the most vulnerable countries are
even further disadvantaged."

"This is not a gap, it's an
abyss. We can avoid falling
into it, but we're running
out of time."

Gathering 195 states and
the European Union bloc,
the 12-day Lima meeting has
as one of its tasks to draft
guidelines for nations when
they make emissions-cutting
pledges next year in Paris--
commitments that are at the
heart of the new pact.

American, South African

FROM PAGE 16

Luke." The South African
government did not imme-
diately comment on
Korkie's death.

Information "indicated
that Luke's life was in immi-
nent danger," Obama said.
"Based on this assessment,
and as soon as there was
reliable intelligence and an
operational plan, I author-
ized a rescue attempt."

Lucy Somers, the photo-
journalist's sister, told the AP
that she and her father
learned of her 33-year-old
brother's death from FBI
agents at 0500 GMT yester-
day.

"We ask that all of Luke's
family members be allowed
to mourn in peace," she
said, speaking from Kent,
England.

Yemen's national security
chief, Maj Gen Ali al-
Ahmadi, said the militants
planned to kill Luke Somers
yesterday, prompting the
joint mission.

The operation began
before dawn in Yemen's
southern Shabwa province,
a stronghold of al-Qaeda in
the Arabian Peninsula, the
country's local branch of the
terror group.

US drones struck first the
Wadi Abdan area first, fol-

lowed by strafing runs by
jets and Yemeni ground
forces moving in, a Yemeni
security official said.
Helicopters also flew in
more forces to raid the
house where the two men
were held, he said.

At least nine al-Qaeda
militants were killed in an
initial drone strike, another
security official said. Both
spoke on condition of an-
onymity as they weren't autho-
rized to speak to journalists.

Both Somers and Korkie
"were murdered by the
AQAP terrorists during the
course of the operation," US
Secretary of Defence Chuck
Hagel said from Kabul,
Afghanistan.

Yesterday operation
marked the second failed
rescue by US and Yemeni
forces looking for Somers,
among the roughly dozen
hostages believed held by al-
Qaeda militants in Yemen.

Following the first raid,
al-Qaeda militants released
a video Thursday that
showed Somers, threatening
to kill him in three days if
the United States didn't
meet the group's unspeci-
fied demands or if another
rescue was attempted.

Somers was kidnapped in
September 2013 as he left a

supermarket in the Yemeni
capital, Sanaa, said Fakhri
al-Arashi, chief editor of the
National Yemen, where
Somers worked as a copy
editor and a freelance pho-
tographer during the 2011
uprising in Yemen.

Before her brother's
death, Lucy Somers released
an online video describing
him as a romantic who
"always believes the best in
people." She ended with the
plea: "Please let him live."

In a statement, Somers'
father, Michael, also called his
son "a good friend of Yemen
and the Yemeni people" and
asked for his safe release.

Korkie was kidnapped in
the Yemeni city of Taiz in
May 2013, along with his
wife Yolande. Militants later
released his wife after a non-
governmental group, Gift of
the Givers, helped negotiate
for her freedom. Those close
to Korkie said al-Qaeda
militants demanded a \$3
million ransom for his
release.

"The psychological and
emotional devastation to
Yolande and her family will
be compounded by the
knowledge that Pierre was to
be released by al Qaeda
tomorrow," Gift of Givers
said in a statement yesterday.

Al-Qaeda

FROM PAGE 16

He is also suspected of hav-
ing played a role in plotting
al-Qaeda attacks in Panama,
Norway and the UK.

Pakistan's military said
two other militants were
killed in the raid on
Saturday. One soldier was
also reportedly killed, and
another was hurt.

A military statement said
the "intelligence-borne
operation" took place in the
Shinwarsak region of South
Waziristan, which borders
Afghanistan.

The region is a base for
the Pakistani Taliban and its
allies.

Pakistan's military
launched an offensive in
June against militants in
neighbouring North
Waziristan.

Shukrijumah is alleged to
have been in charge of plan-
ning al-Qaeda attacks out-
side Pakistan and
Afghanistan.

A Saudi national, he
spent more than 15 years in
the US, moving there when
his father took up a post at a
Brooklyn mosque. The
family later moved to
Florida.

In the late 1990s, he is
thought to have left for
militant training camps in
Afghanistan.