

# Rodrigo takes big lead

AFP, Manila

Anti-establishment firebrand Rodrigo Duterte was yesterday heading for a huge win in the Philippine presidential elections, according to a poll monitor, after an incendiary campaign dominated by his profanity-laced threats to kill criminals.

Duterte, the longtime mayor of the southern city of Davao, has hypnotised millions with his vows of brutal-but-quick solutions to the nation's twin plagues of crime and poverty, which many believe have worsened despite strong economic growth in recent years.

Duterte had 38.72 percent of the vote, with 75 percent of the total counted, according to the PPCRV, a Catholic Church-run poll monitor accredited by the government to tally the ballots.

That put him 5.3 million votes, or about 16 percentage points, ahead of his nearest rival, administration candidate Mar Roxas.

"He's almost a sure winner now," prominent political analyst Ramon Casiple told AFP. Before the results came out, Duterte was already speaking like a winner as he called for rivalries to be put aside following one of the nation's most bitter and divisive

campaigns in the Philippines' history.

"I want to reach out my hand and let us begin the healing now," Duterte told reporters in Davao, the nation's third-biggest city, which he has ruled for most of the past two decades.

However, he said he would not proclaim himself the victor until it was official. "I am not there until I am there, and that is the when last vote is counted and you are declared a winner. At this time it would be presumptuous of me," he said.

## PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL



Roxas had 22.39 percent of the vote, while Senator Grace Poe trailed closely in third, according to the PPCRV.

In the Philippines, a winner is decided simply by whomever gets the most votes.

Duterte, a pugnacious 71-year-old, surged from outsider to the top of surveys with cuss-filled vows to kill tens of thousands of criminals, threats to establish one-man rule if lawmakers disobeyed him and promises to embrace communist rebels.

He also boasted repeatedly about his Viagra-fuelled affairs, while promising voters his mistresses would not cost a lot because he kept them in cheap boarding houses and took them to short-stay hotels for sex.



Clockwise from left: Polling officers print documents from a vote counting machine after polls closed in the presidential election in Manila, Philippines yesterday. Twenty-one-year-old resident Fife Vanice Dayola, who was born with bone disalignment, casts her vote with the assistance of her mother, Rowena Dayola, in the election at a polling station in Davao. A volunteer election worker takes a rest amongst posters and sample ballots in a slum community in Manila.



PHOTO: AFP



## EU REFERENDUM Cameron warns UK exit could put peace at risk

AFP, London

Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday warned that a British exit from the EU would threaten peace on the continent, as the campaign for next month's crucial referendum gathered steam after regional elections.

With polls showing the two campaigns are neck-and-neck, Cameron and the de-facto leader of the "Leave" movement, former London mayor Boris Johnson, were both stepping up efforts to woo undecided voters.

Leaving the 28-member bloc in the June 23 referendum would be a "reckless and irresponsible" risk to Britain's economic stability that would leave it "permanently poorer", Cameron warned.

He also said a "Brexit" would threaten Britain's strength and security in the continent, along with peace on the continent if "Europe's foremost military power" quit the European Union.

"Isolationism has never served this country well," he said in a speech at the British Museum in London. "Whenever we turn our back on Europe, sooner or later we come to regret it. We've always had to go back in, and always at a much higher cost."

Cameron said that while Europe had largely been at peace since the end of World War II, it was barely two decades since the Bosnian war, while the continent was facing a "newly belligerent Russia", with conflicts in Georgia and Ukraine.

# Kenya to close world's biggest refugee camp

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Kenya plans to close all of its refugee camps in a move that would displace more than 600,000 people.

The country's government said it was shutting down the camps due to "very heavy" economic, security and environmental issues. Those due to close include Dadaab, the largest refugee camp in the world, home to more than 300,000 people on the Kenya-Somalia border.

Karanja Kibicho, Kenya's secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, cited the influence of terror group Al-Shabaab as among the risks of keeping the camps open.

Kibicho said in a statement: "Kenya, having taken into consideration its national security interests, has decided that hosting of refugees has come to an end."

"The Government of Kenya acknowledges that the decision will have adverse effects on the lives of refugees and therefore the international community

must collectively take responsibility on humanitarian needs that will arise out of this action."

It is not yet clear when the closures will begin, but the Kenyan government has already disbanded the Department of Refugee Affairs, which worked with humanitarian organisations for the welfare of the refugees. The closures mean Somali asylum seekers would be forced to return to the situation they fled.



PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.CO.UK  
Young Somali boys attending school lessons in the Dadaab refugee camp.

Mwenda Njoka, interior ministry spokesman, added: "The message is clear; we are closing the camps and we will not accept more refugees in the country."

Human rights groups lambasted the decision, expressing concern at the hundreds of thousands of refugees it could put in

danger. Muthoni Wanyeki, Amnesty International's regional director in East Africa, told The Independent: "This reckless decision by the Kenyan government is an abdication of its duty to protect the vulnerable and will put thousands of lives at risk," Wanyeki said.

# REPORTING IN RUN-UP TO PARTY CONGRESS North Korea detains, expels BBC reporter

AFP, Seoul

A BBC reporter in North Korea was detained, interrogated for eight hours and eventually expelled over his reporting in the run-up to a rare ruling party congress, the British broadcaster said yesterday.

Foreign reporters invited to cover specific events in North Korea are subjected to very tight restrictions on access and movement.

Numerous journalists have been prevented from returning because their previous coverage was deemed "inaccurate" or "disrespectful" -- but detaining and then expelling a reporter while still in the country is extremely rare.

The BBC journalist, Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, was about to board a plane departing from Pyongyang airport with two other BBC staff on Friday when he was stopped and taken into detention,

the BBC said.

He was then questioned for around eight hours, apparently over one of his reports which questioned the authenticity of a hospital his team was visiting.

"He was taken to a hotel and interrogated by the security bureau here in Pyongyang before being made to sign a statement and then released" on Saturday morning, said John Sudworth, another BBC reporter covering the congress in the North Korean capital.

Sudworth said the BBC had sought to keep the detention and expulsion order quiet out of concern for the safety of Wingfield-Hayes and two other members of his team, who had refused to leave on Friday after he was detained.

The three-person BBC team landed in Beijing from Pyongyang yesterday evening. "We are very happy to be back in Beijing," the



## NEWS IN brief

### Belgium terror cell suspects on trial

AFP, Brussels

Belgium yesterday began the trial of seven alleged jihadists accused of links to the terror cell behind the Paris and Brussels attacks. The men were arrested after a deadly raid in the Belgian town of Verviers in January 2015 which exposed an alleged plan to kill police officers. A further nine people who are still at large are being tried in their

### Hopes raised in Canada wildfire battle

BBC ONLINE

The battle to contain the wildfires in west-central Canada has reached a turning point, partly thanks to drizzle and favourable winds, officials said yesterday. One minister warned much work lay ahead but "we may be turning a corner". A fifth of homes in the oil sands city of Fort McMurray have been

### China landslide death toll climbs to 31

AFP, Beijing

The number of bodies recovered from a landslide that engulfed workers at a Chinese construction site rose to 31 yesterday with seven people still missing, authorities said. Heavy rain at the weekend buried a temporary shed used by workers at a hydropower station construction site in Fujian province, in the southeast, under 100,000 cubic metres of mud and

### Israeli soldier tried over shooting

AFP, Jaffa

The politically charged trial began yesterday of an Israeli soldier accused of shooting dead a wounded Palestinian assailant as he lay on the ground. The head of the military court's three-judge panel read out the manslaughter indictment to Elor Azaria, who was clad in his uniform and surrounded by family in the

### Shock as Austrian chancellor quits

AFP, Vienna

Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann quit yesterday, bowing to intense pressure two weeks after the opposition anti-immigration far-right dealt his coalition a historic blow in the first round of presidential elections. The centre-left Faymann, 56, chancellor since 2008, said in a statement that he no longer had



Egyptian firefighters extinguish fire at the popular market area of al-Atabaa in downtown Cairo yesterday. At least 81 people including firefighters suffered minor injuries when a fire spread quickly through a commercial area in downtown Cairo, Egyptian officials said. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known.

PHOTO: AFP

# US TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN Confusion ruled over mission: Pentagon

REUTERS, Kabul

Amid fierce fighting after the Taliban captured the northern Afghan city of Kunduz last year, US special forces advisers repeatedly asked their commanders how far they were allowed to go to help local troops retake the city.

They got no answer, according to witnesses interviewed in a recently declassified, heavily redacted Pentagon report that lays bare the confusion over rules of engagement governing the mission in Afghanistan.

As the Taliban insurgency gathers strength, avoiding enemy fire has become increasingly difficult for advisers, who have been acting as consultants rather than combatants since Nato forces formally ceased fighting at the end of 2014.

In the heat of the battle, lines can be blurred, and the problem is not exclusive to Afghanistan: questions have arisen over the role of US troops in Iraq after a US Navy SEAL was killed by Islamic State this month.

"How far do you want to go?" is not a proper response to "How far do you want us to go?" one special forces member told investigators in a report into the US air strikes on a hospital in Kunduz that killed 42 medical staff, patients and caretakers.

That incident was the biggest single tragedy of the brief capitulation of Kunduz to Taliban militants, and there is no suggestion that the mistake was the result of a lack of clarity over the rules of engagement.

# Russian WW2 parade showcases new arms

BBC ONLINE

Russian armed forces yesterday paraded in central Moscow to mark the 71st anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two.

Some of Russia's latest military hardware was on show, including the RS-24 Yars long-range nuclear missile.

Fighters, heavy bombers and helicopters flew over Red Square, including types combat-tested in Syria where Russian aircraft are helping government forces. The march past included Russia's new National Guard.

The National Guard will be armed with new AK-74M machine guns and will be tasked with fighting terrorism and organised crime. Those operations are currently the domain of interior ministry Omon and Sobr special forces.

The parade involved 10,000 military staff, 135 armoured vehicles and 71 aircraft. Victory Day (9 May) is an occasion for the

Kremlin to stir up patriotic feelings, as Russians remember the sacrifices made in World War Two.

Russia is ploughing billions of dollars into modernising its military, amid tension with Nato over the conflict in Ukraine. So the annual parade also shows off Russian military might for an international audience.

For the first time a contingent from the Russian space forces joined the parade - officers and cadets from a military academy that produced famous Soviet cosmonauts, including Yuri Gagarin and German Titov.

The heavy armour included new Russian anti-aircraft missile systems - the S-400 and Pantsir - as well as the Iskander medium-range missile.

Addressing the armed forces, President Vladimir Putin praised the wartime feat of millions of Soviet citizens, who "demonstrated the true strength of our nation, its unity, triumphant spirit and patriotic devotion".



# Maid tortured to death in Saudi Arabia

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A 25-year-old Indian woman has allegedly been tortured to death by her employers in Saudi Arabia.

Asima Khatoun, who went to the Gulf state to work as a house maid, reportedly succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment for chest-related disease at the King Saud hospital. She passed away after medical treatment failed to save her.

Her family claimed she had previously complained of being mentally and physically harassed. "She went there and she was assaulted there," a member of Khatoun's family, from Hyderabad, told News 18.

In a phone call made several weeks ago, she reportedly asked her parents to rescue her.

# Rousseff impeachment vote 'annulled'

AFP, Brasilia

The impeachment of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff was thrown into confusion yesterday when the speaker of the lower house of Congress annulled an April vote by lawmakers to launch the process.

Waldir Maranhao, the interim speaker of the lower house, wrote in an order seen by AFP that a new vote should take place on whether to impeach Rousseff.

The surprise move came just as the Senate was preparing to vote this week on whether to suspend Rousseff from office while an impeachment trial gets underway.

Maranhao's order said that legislators should hold a new vote in five sessions time. However it was not immediately clear how the chaotic new developments would unfold.

The Senate was due to start its own voting process on Wednesday, with a majority expected to vote for Rousseff to be suspended. It was not clear whether Maranhao's order

would stand or would be challenged, possibly in the Supreme Court.

In her first reaction, Rousseff interrupted a speech to supporters to say that she'd just got unconfirmed news of her impeachment hitting a roadblock.

"I don't know the consequences. Please be cautious," she said, calling on her backers to "defend democracy."

The lower house voted in mid-April by an overwhelming majority to send Rousseff's case to the Senate for trial. She is accused of illegally manipulating government budget accounts during her 2014 reelection battle but says that the process has been twisted into a coup d'etat.

Recent polls indicated that about 60 percent of Brazilians want Rousseff to leave office. But they also showed a similar proportion reject Temer and prefer fresh elections.

Rousseff has not been formally accused of corruption like many of her rivals. But prosecutors have called for her to be investigated for allegedly trying to obstruct a probe

